Past life catches up with present
SoCal neighbors shocked that Emily Harris once belonged to the SLA.
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Gay ex-GOPer heads Stonewall Democrats.
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All in the family
Lynn Redgrave on her gay father and 'The Mandrake Root.'
see Arts section

BAY AREA REPORTER
Vol. 32 • No. 4 • 24 January 2002
Serving the gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender communities since 1971

March marks Whipple death

by Ed Walsh

A candlelight vigil and march is planned for Diane Whipple for this Saturday, January 26, on the one-year anniversary of her death and just days after the start of the trial of Marjorie Knoller and Robert Noel, the keepers of the dogs involved in the fatal mauling of the 33-year-old lacrosse coach.

Diane Whipple

The event will be held in the Castro from 5-7 p.m. Participants are asked to gather at the intersection of 19th and Collingwood, a block west of Castro. The march will head one block north on Collingwood to 18th and east on 18th Street to Dolores Park, located on 18th Street between Church and Dolores streets. The event was originally scheduled to begin on 18th and Castro but it was moved out of concern of holding up traffic at that busy intersection.

A pre-event gathering will take place from 2-5 p.m. at the Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, 150 Eureka Street, near 18th. Participants at the pre-event will help make posters and are asked to bring magazines and other materials to make collages honoring and celebrating Whipple's spirit.

The vigil is sponsored by Marriage Equality California, the National Center for Lesbian Rights, Metropolitan Community Church-San Francisco, and the Friends of Diane organization. Speakers will include Molly McKay of MECA, Kate Kendell of NCLR, San Francisco Supervisor Mark Leno, the Reverend Penny Nixon of MCC-SF, FOD organizer Terry Alvey, Whipple's partner of seven years, Sharon Smith, and one of Smith's attorneys, Michael Cardoza.

Smith filed a wrongful death lawsuit against Noel and Knoller. She made history last summer when a judge allowed her to proceed with her lawsuit despite the law at the time that gave that right only to a surviving married spouse. Smith lobbied for AB25, a bill sponsored by Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco), which among other provisions, gives same-sex couples comparable rights in civil court cases. Governor Gray Davis signed the bill into law last fall and it went into effect January 1.

Meanwhile, the criminal case

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Torch hits the Castro

Hundreds of people lined Castro and Market streets last Friday night as an Olympic Torch runner carried the flame through the Castro as part of the weekend Bay Area swing en route to the Winter Olympics in Salt Lake City, which begin February 8. The torch visit was the talk of the night among customers at the Twin Peaks bar.

Darlene / PhotoGraphics

Positive Resource Center warns it may close its doors

by Matthew S. Bajko

For 15 years, Positive Resource Center has helped thousands of people with HIV and AIDS access health benefits or find employment. A safety net for the city's underserved communities, the agency welcomes everyone, from transgenders and the homeless to sex workers and active substance users.

After helping so many San Franciscans weather personal crises, the agency now finds itself turning to the community for help with its own survival.

Mired in a financial crisis, the agency has warned it soon may be forced to shut its doors. It is no longer accepting new clients for its benefits counseling services, telling people to call back for appointments in February.

"Positive Resource Center is the linchpin in a comprehensive network of HIV employment services in the San Francisco Bay Area. Without PRC, smooth community linkage between clients and employment programs would be significantly hampered," said Dr. Peter Goldblum, coordinator of the Considering Work Project of the University of California at San Francisco AIDS Health Project.

According to its board of directors, Positive Resource Center needs to raise $175,000 by March in order to stabilize its first quarter cash flow and pay employees. The money represents 15 percent of PRC's $1.2 million budget in 2002.

"Our weakness was we were so client focused, we were providing services without going after the funds," said Mairi McKeever, PRC's interim executive director and an attorney.

McKeever resigned in December as coordinator of PRC's benefits counseling program to spend time with her two small children. In January, the board asked her to return as executive director in a volunteer capacity.

"We do have a balanced budget. The problem is cash flow," she said. "We need to get

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Bush AIDS 'czar' comes to SF

by Matthew S. Bajko

President Bush's openly gay AIDS adviser says he supports the federal government's audits of how AIDS service organizations are spending taxpayer dollars.

"We need to take a look to see if these programs are working or not," said Scott Evertz, director of the White House Office of National AIDS Policy, in an exclusive interview with the *Bay Area Reporter*. "We need to be doing a much better job. There is a reason why in pockets of the gay male population the rates are on the rise."

Cynthia Laird

Scott Evertz

Evertz, who has been in San Francisco all week visiting numerous AIDS agencies, sat down with the *B.A.R.* Monday, January 21 to discuss the federal audits, as well as the effectiveness of HIV prevention, his relationship with President Bush and lawmakers on Capitol Hill, and the status of gays and lesbians in the Republican Party.

Attempting to distill some of the fear out of the federal audits, Evertz stated they are more a review than a witch-hunt into AIDS agencies.

"I don't think this is headed toward a mi-

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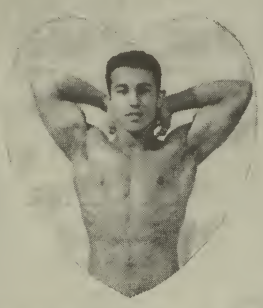

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Stop AIDS Project names new executive director

by Matthew S. Bajko

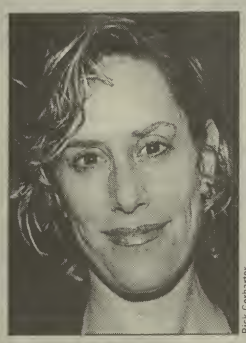
After the Stop AIDS Project came under attack by federal inspectors for its sex-positive workshops, the agency's new executive director says she hopes to find new revenue sources that will not subject programming to rigid guidelines.

"I think it is fantastic we have money from the government and it is important we maintain that relationship. However, we need non-governmental money to stay cutting edge. That is what we do best at Stop AIDS Project, and we need community support to stay that way," said Darlene Weide, who had served as the agency's interim co-executive director since last July. "I am working with people in the community and the staff to find new ways to fund the project, and I welcome any ideas the community may have to make that a reality."

Last fall, several of Stop AIDS Project's workshops were deemed obscene and potentially in violation of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines by Health and Human Services Inspector General Janet Rehnquist. The agency has maintained it did not violate those rules and had all of its materials for those workshops reviewed by a local standards board.

"Just to make it clear: we have been in complete compliance with the federal guidelines," said Weide. "We strongly believe that people in San Francisco are the ones who should determine prevention programs for people here, not bureaucrats in Washington, D.C."

The agency's board of directors announced Weide's appointment on Monday, January 14. The agency has been without a permanent executive director since January 2001, when Tim Leifield resigned to pursue other interests. Weide, who joined Stop AIDS in 1996, will be paid $70,000 annually.



Rick Gerharter

Darlene Weide

"She was by far the best qualified. She has been with the project for quite a number of years, is a great facilitator, and brings people together to find compromise and common ground," said board President Jorge Romero-Lozano. "She works well with the board and staff. She is liked by both."

He said the board for some time has wanted to diversify the project's funding sources away from just government contracts.

"It is because of the fact there is a lot more we can do, but our hands are tied with government restrictions," said Romero-Lozano. "It is something we have been talking about for years, wanting to raise more unrestricted funds."

Stop AIDS Project has an annual budget of $1.9 million and operates several locations with a staff of 23 employees and 150 volunteers. Weide said the project's work today is just as important as at the start of the epidemic.

"Prevention works. However 1,000 new infections is still too many," she said. "Programs like the Stop AIDS Project are needed to keep the number of infections as low as possible because we are able to address the new challenges of prevention through our community-based approach to prevention."

For 15 years Weide has worked with the community developing HIV prevention programs. In 1998, she became the project's workshops and forums development manager. In 1999, she became the deputy program director, overseeing the agency's programs, workshops, and events series.

Before Stop AIDS, Weide worked as a researcher at an AmFAR-funded project at Lyon Martin Women's Health Services, served as interim major gifts coordinator at the National Center for Lesbian Rights, and was a psychotherapist intern at New Leaf.

She also served as health education director at Central City Hospitality House Youth Program and a health science teacher at City College of San Francisco.

As she steps into her new role, Weide said the questions and federal investigation surrounding the project's programs have only strengthened her commitment to supporting cutting edge prevention methods.

"At this time of the epidemic, we need a combination of prevention efforts that still includes comprehensive education programs and outreach, needle exchange, access to testing and drug treatment," said Weide. "However, in addition we need to involve the community in designing sex-positive, welcoming places to meet others in the same situations, to talk honestly about changes, and look at a spectrum of wellness issues in gay men's lives." ▼

Lesbian named to Elections Commission, did not attend secret meeting

by Cynthia Laird

Fed up with problem-plagued elections over the last several years, San Francisco voters last November approved the formation of an Elections Commission. The commission is composed of seven members named by city officials and Treasurer Susan Leal, who has one appointment, announced last week that she has chosen Brenda Stowers to be on the panel.

Stowers, an out lesbian, has a background in financial management, which was the criteria for the seat chosen by the treasurer, Leal said.

It seems, however, that the commission, whose members are set to be sworn in today (Thursday, January 24) has already generated controversy before its first formal meeting. The *San Francisco Chronicle* reported Wednesday that four members met in secret. While not technically in violation of the city's sunshine ordinance, several officials stated that the meeting was a violation of the spirit of the law. The city attorney's office cautioned against the meeting, but four of the members apparently disregarded that advise.

Brenda Stowers, left, with Treasurer Susan Leal.

Stowers did not attend the meeting, Leal said.

"It was very inappropriate," Leal told the *Bay Area Reporter* of the so-called get-acquainted session. "If it doesn't violate the law, it goes against the spirit of it."

Leal said that she had heard some commission members were planning to meet last week.

"I had already notified her [Stowers] and said I'd heard there was a meeting. Her instincts were correct not to go," Leal said, adding that Stowers thought she should not attend a meeting until she was sworn in.

The volunteer commission is charged with overseeing all public federal, state, district, and municipal elections in the city and county of San Francisco. Elections in San Francisco have been marred by snafus over the last several years, from ballots being dried in a microwave oven to ballot box tops being found floating in San Francisco Bay. Stowers hopes those problems will end. Now, however, in light of last week's meeting, Stowers and the other commissioners may have to work on restoring public confidence in the

page 5 ▶

Consumer advocacy project still standing up for PWAs

by Katie Szymanski

Bureaucracies, quotas, income requirements, and paperwork are just a few of the obstacles a person with HIV must face when applying for city services. For those who are having difficulty accessing appropriate help, Richard Bargetto, director of the HIV Consumer Rights Advocacy Project, wants them to know they don't have to go it alone.

The Consumer Rights Advocacy Project was established a few years ago in response to a series of complaints received by the HIV Health Services Planning Council (a.k.a. the CARE Council), which oversees federal Ryan White CARE Act funds for San Francisco, San Mateo, and Marin counties. Bargetto, who has led the project for two years, says his role is to advocate on behalf of people with HIV as well as mediate between potential clients and city agencies when there is a grievance or dispute.

"People come to me when they are not able to access, or have been denied, important HIV-related services," said Bargetto. "We try to make sure that a decision has been applied to a person in a fair manner, and that the applied policy he or she is contesting is inherently fair."

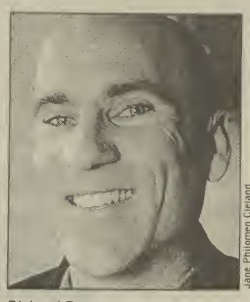
More than half the issues presented to the project are housing related, said Bargetto. Other complaints have to do with primary medical and dental care, and substance abuse treatment. What makes contesting procedures particularly difficult for people with HIV is that there is no citywide standard for how to file a grievance. That's where Bargetto comes in.

"Some agencies don't have grievance forms available; others don't even have the grievance procedures properly posted," said Bargetto. "People can come to me when they want to file a grievance. They can also just call me if they need to figure out what they should do; I can always give feedback on different options they have."

Bargetto said he can also file confidential grievances for people who may still be accessing services from the agency in question and do not want their names revealed.

"I can file confidential grievances on their behalf," said Bargetto. "Of course, it makes it difficult to investigate the matter without giving a name, but it's an avenue that is available."

Funded by the CARE Council with a budget of about $45,500 annually, the Consumer Rights Advocacy Project filed 63 official grievances last year and has been instrumental in modifying some unfair policies at agencies. There is no statute of limitations to prohibit someone from filing a grievance, so those with an issue from their past still have opportunities to challenge the system.


Jane Philomen Cleland

Richard Bargetto

The project reports directly to the PWA Caucus, and anyone interested in learning more about current consumer issues is welcome to attend a meeting, every second Wednesday of the month from 5:30-7:30 p.m. at 25 Van Ness Avenue, room 330. Volunteer opportunities with the project are also available.

To discuss an issue, file a grievance, or learn about your options, call Bargetto directly at (415) 863-8131. ▼

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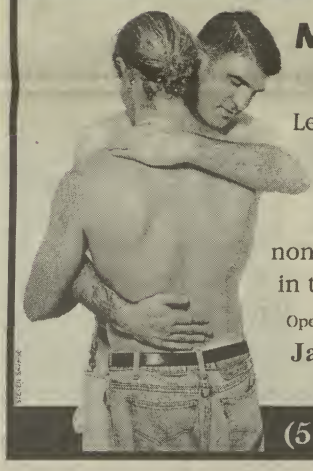
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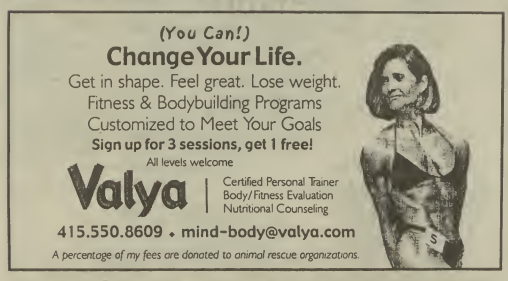

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Evaluate this

by Jane Warner

18th and Church, January 20, 2 p.m.: Police responded to several calls of a man trying to car jack a vehicle at the intersection of Church and 18th. Upon arrival, officers were flagged down by a driver of a white SUV who said that while waiting for a traffic light to change, a strange man opened the rear passenger side of her car and tried to get in. In the back of the vehicle were three small children and an adult. The adult in the back kicked and pushed the intruder until he got out of the car. The suspect then fled north on Church Street and west on Market. Police searched the area and were flagged down by several people who pointed to the coin-operated laundry on the corner of Sanchez and 18th. Officers entered the facility and found the suspect sitting in the floor with his shirt off and pants down, exposing himself. Bleeding profusely from a large gash in his right forearm, the suspect screamed, "Shut the door before they come in and bite me." Officers called for an ambulance. When paramedics arrived, they restrained the man and took him to San Francisco General Hospital. The 30-year-old man, a known psychiatric patient of the hospital, was admitted for evaluation.

Crime & Punishment

Road race

Elizabeth at Vicksburg, January 20, 3:49 a.m.: Early in the morning, a man heard a noise coming from the street and looked out his bedroom window to see several men taking the wheels off a parked car. The resident called 911 and police officers responded to the scene, sneaking up on the perpetrators on foot and with the lights turned off on their squad cars. Realizing they were surrounded, two suspects ran while another suspect jumped into a black Honda parked a short distance away. Officers quickly arrested the man in the car and found a woman hiding in the back seat. Inside the trunk of the vehicle were two stolen wheels, a car stereo, and numerous auto parts. Other officers gave chase to the running suspects, catching one of them. The arrested suspects were taken to Mission Station and eventually told officers where they could find the missing suspect, at his home in Daly City. Officers contacted the Daly City police, who went the man's house and arrested him. The four alleged thieves, ages 17 to 23, were booked for conspiracy, vehicle burglary, possession of stolen property, and resisting arrest.

School daze

15th and Market, January 16, 1:45 p.m.: A police officer on routine patrol observed a man standing in the middle of the street screaming at a driver of a truck. The officer overheard the man threaten the driver and raise his fists, telling him, "Come out and fight like a man." The officer asked the screaming man what he was doing and he replied, "Fuck you, bitch, this is none of your business." The man started to walk away, ignoring repeated commands to stop. The officer caught up with the man, placed him in handcuffs, and put him in the back seat of the squad car. A computer check revealed he had an outstanding warrant for a prior assault charge. A woman holding a small baby approached the officer and identified herself as the suspect's girlfriend, explaining that he was upset because he though he had the right of way on a crosswalk. When informed about her boyfriend's warrant, the woman said she wasn't surprised, stating, "He's recently been missing his anger management classes." The 29-year-old man was taken to Mission Station and booked accordingly. ▼

The San Francisco Patrol Special Police, which exclusively serves the Castro District, can be reached at (415) 559- 9955.

Anti-Semitism rears head on MLK Day

by Katie Szymanski

Members of the LGBT-frequented Congregation Sha'ar Zahav awoke on the Martin Luther King Jr. holiday to discover that hatred is alive and well, even on a day that honors diversity and equality. A nearly three-foot Nazi swastika, together with indecipherable graffiti, was drawn in black marker on the temple building's wall. The vandalism was discovered mid-morning on Monday, January 21.

Although originally believed to be a gang-related crime, police officers later told Sha'ar Zahav staff that the tags on the wall were not known gang symbols. But for temple-goers, whoever did it may not be as important as why.

"It was an upsetting thing," said Lisa Katz, synagogue president, adding that police and clean-up crews came immediately, and law enforcement has responded appropriately by automatically referring the incident to hate crimes investigations.

This is not the first time the building has been tagged, according to temple spokeswoman Lea Salem, but it is the first hate incident of its kind in her eight years of working there. The congregation, known for welcoming its LGBT members in the spirit of Judaism, used to meet on Danvers Street in the upper Castro before moving to the more centralized Dolores Street location in 1998.

Katz said that the congregation is taking the incident seriously, and has contacted the Jewish Community Relations Council as well as the Anti-Defamation League.

"In the spirit of Martin Luther King and the Jewish prophets we look forward to the day when everyone can live together in peace and friendship," said Katz.

Although wounded, the progressive reform synagogue will not be silenced, and plans continue for Jewish and LGBT-specific activities, including an upcoming transgender education workshop on the morning of February 2, and Purim celebrations on February 23.

For more information on Sha'ar Zahav, visit www.shaarzahav.org. ▼

Providers and friends invited to transgender center open house next Friday

by Katie Szymanski

Health and service providers interested in expanding or enhancing their outreach to transgenders are invited to an open house next Friday, February 1, from 4 to 7 p.m.

The open house is presented by the Transgender Resource and Neighborhood Space, a new project of the research group Health Studies for People of Color at the University of California, San Francisco. Through workshops and referrals, TRANS seeks to evaluate and determine specific needs for the transgender community, particularly around HIV concerns, as the male-to-female population has one of the highest infection rates in the city. The two-pronged project will focus on both operating a transgender recovery program as well as a drop-in space to build community. The open house will be at the new drop-in space, at 1145 Bush Street, on the second floor.

"We wanted to open a space that was both convenient and safe for the community," said JoAnne Keatley of TRANS. "The space gives the trans community a place to shower and just drop in and interact with one another; it's also a way to access resources for safer sex, information on drug use and sex work, and upcoming workshops."

TRANS formally opened last October and to date, 68 people have enrolled in the program. Next week's open house gives anyone interested in learning more about the MTF community an overview of an often-overlooked community.

"We already had an open house for trans people," explained Keatley. "This one will really focus on the provider community and will try to create a sense of networking. Our hope is that those who attend will be able to refer clients to us and vice versa."

Those who plan to attend should RSVP by Friday, January 25, so that enough food will be on hand. All are welcome, but responses are appreciated; call (415) 514-0758 or e-mail meleneke@psg.ucsf.edu. ▼

COMMUNITY NEWS

Assembly committee rejects anti-gay education bill

by Matthew S. Bajko

Gay-rights activists applauded a state Assembly committee this month for rejecting a bill that would have prohibited the "promotion of homosexuality in public education." Assemblyman Dennis Mountjoy (R-Arcadia) had introduced the anti-gay bill, AB1326.

The bill's author and its supporters had attempted to portray the bill as an effort to bring back the basics into the classroom, expressing their frustration with the proliferation of "diversity" curriculum. They also implied such instruction was connected to the low test scores of California students.

On Wednesday, January 16, the California Assembly Education Committee voted 8 to 3 against the bill during the initial roll call. Those legislators who voted yes for the bill were Assemblymembers Lynne Leach (R-Walnut Creek), Ken Maddox (R-Garden Grove) and Rod Pacheco (R-Riverside). Those voting against the bill, all Democrats, included lesbian Assemblywoman Jackie Goldberg (D-Los Angeles).

"We commend the committee members who voted to reject a bill that is completely devoid of any merit. At its core, AB1326 is another cruel attempt to fan the flames of fear and hatred toward lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender people," said Jean Harris, executive director of the California Alliance for Pride and Equality.

CAPE and other opponents of the bill pointed out the absurdity of the supporters' arguments in trying to correlate promoting diversity and low test scores. Opponents also feared the bill was so vague that it could have led to censorship of library books and materials, bans on gay/straight student alliances, and the loss of vital counseling services for students that help prevent gay teen suicide.

The groups also expressed concern the bill could have prohibited school teachers and counselors from discussing questions about sexuality or anti-gay harassment. It could have also severely limited or eliminated student's access to health education programs, including those on HIV and AIDS.

"AB1326 seems innocuous. However, this law might have been used to stop schools from teaching kids tolerance, and teaching them not to beat up their lesbian, gay, bisexual, or transgendered fellow students," stated Boyce Hinman, Lambda Letters Project coordinator.

Hinman's group writes to lawmakers in order to swing their votes for or against legislation. Members sent more than 2,400 e-mails to committee members asking them to oppose the bill.

"Homophobes probably would have used the bill to prohibit school counseling programs designed to help GLBT youth cope with the violence which they commonly face in our public schools," added Hinman. ▼

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LGBTI Health Summit proposals due soon

by Liz Highleyman

Organizers of the upcoming Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Intersex Health Summit 2002, to be held August 21-25 in Boulder, Colorado, are seeking proposals for workshops, panels, and presentations.

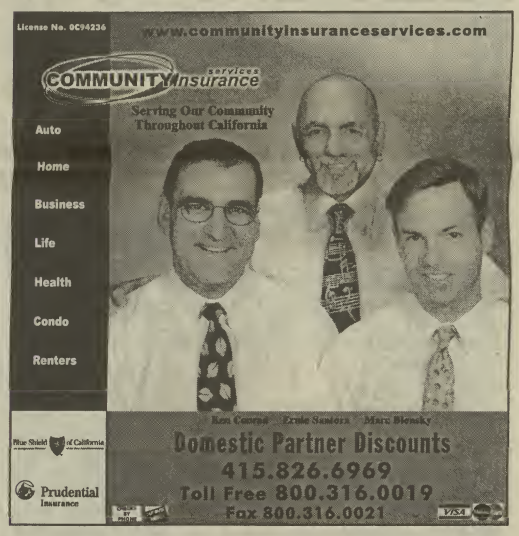
Emerging out of the first Gay Men's Health Summit in 1999, this year for the first time the summit will address the health concerns of the full diversity of the queer community. The conference will cover a wide spectrum of health issues ranging from HIV/AIDS and breast cancer to heart disease and mental health to violence and substance abuse issues.

Program coordinators are looking for proposals in several broad categories, including lesbian health, gay male health, bisexual health, transgender health, intersex health, self-help and holistic health, community organizing and political activism, research, model programs, and skills-building. Especially welcome are proposals for creative and interactive sessions that break out of the familiar "talking heads" panel format.

The summit is geared toward interested LGBTI individuals as well as health professionals, academic researchers, policy makers, and activists. Because the conference is a grassroots effort organized primarily by volunteers, the summit will not be able to offer free registration to presenters, although some scholarships will be available.

Prospective presenters should provide a session title, the names and a one-sentence bio of presenters, the appropriate category, a brief description of the session content and format, and the target audience. A proposal submission form can be found on the conference Web site at www.healthsummit2002.org. Submit proposals via the web, by e-mail to LGBTISummit2002@ aol.com, or by mail to LGBTI Health Summit 2002 Workshop Proposals c/o Eric Rofes, 73-B Collingwood Street, San Francisco, CA 94114.

The deadline for proposals is February 15; prospective presenters will be notified by April 1. ▼



Elections Dept.

◀ page 2

commission itself.

"One of the things I'm looking to accomplish is bringing a good sense and credibility to the voters that we're overseeing the Elections Department," Stowers said, adding that she hopes the commission can identify problems in the department and come up with realistic solutions.

The commission's duties will include setting general policies for the Department of Elections and will be responsible for the proper administration of the general practices of the department.

Stowers has worked in the financial service industry since 1997. She currently works as a senior manager at Charles Schwab & Co. Inc., providing IT services to investment managers. She holds a bachelor's degree in business administration from the University of Hawaii. In her spare time, Stowers is an active member of San Francisco FrontRunners, the LGBT walking and running group.

"I run every Saturday," she said, adding that she has served as president and secretary of the organization. ▼

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BAY AREA REPORTER

Volume 32, Number 4
24 January 2002

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Alice doesn't live here ...

Editorial

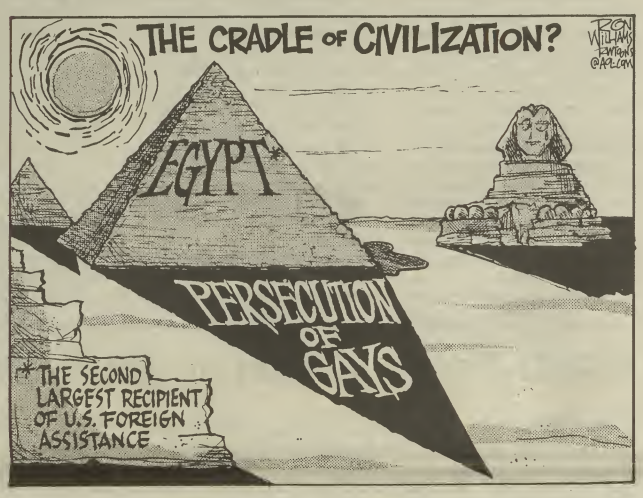
We received an interesting news release from the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club last week. The club, a big backer of Mayor Willie Brown in previous years, has had a change of heart regarding the mayor. Club members were uncharacteristically blunt in their new-found rift with Brown, who recruited former school board member Steve Phillips to run for the Democratic nomination in the 13th Assembly District in the March 5 primary. The hotly contested race also includes gay candidates Mark Leno and Harry Britt and lesbian Holli Thier, whom Brown also reportedly nudged into the field. Alice members, it seems, are upset that Brown is supporting Phillips, an African American, over one of the gay/lesbian candidates. We think the club should be happy that Brown is *not* supporting Leno, Alice's endorsed candidate in the race; after all, Brown has turned off many in the community since his re-election, including this newspaper, which like Alice, backed Brown in 1999 over Tom Ammiano.

Indeed, while Leno was appointed to the Board of Supervisors by Brown, he has since won election in his own right and has veered away sharply from Brown on a host of issues – including housing – to the point that Brown now doesn't like Leno. The LGBT community was split in the last mayoral race, and Alice took a lot of heat from progressives for supporting Brown. Brown has not repaid the favor by supporting one of the gay candidates, and Alice has had enough.

We, too, took a lot of heat from our decision to support Brown; and, while he was our choice at the time, things change. Brown, in our view, has lost much of his effectiveness during his second term and has not been nearly as productive as his first four years in office – even his attempts at boosting tourism and the economy have fallen flat. When he walked through the Castro to promote local merchants as part of his "America: Open for Business" campaign in the aftermath of the terrorist attacks, Brown arrived late and couldn't even support the Castro economy by buying a cup of coffee.

Alice members are also upset about the recent redistricting in the Castro that split the community into two state Senate districts. That, combined with Brown's refusal to support a gay candidate in the Assembly race, has left Alice members feeling that they "must once again fight the old boy machine to win." Alice has made it a top priority to elect Leno to the Assembly. The Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club's major goal is to send Britt to Sacramento.

In our view, the race for Assembly is about more than simply sending a gay man to Sacramento, as the Alice Club believes, or about returning a retired politician to Sacramento, as the Milk Club believes. We need someone in the Assembly – gay or straight – with the ability and dedication to work hard for all San Franciscans, and someone who is committed to serving effectively in office regarding issues of importance to our community. Phillips resigned his school board seat in midterm (the mayor re-appointed him after Brown's choice for a successor backed out, but Phillips did not seek re-election). Britt chose not to seek re-election to the Board of Supervisors about a decade ago. Clearly, the commitment of these candidates to hold public office deserves to be questioned. Why are they running for office after each got out of politics? That is the question that needs to be asked. In Mark Leno, the community gets someone who will fight hard for all of his constituents in Sacramento *and* a gay man. ▼



An anniversary, but no celebration

by Kate Kendell

Guest Opinion

On January 25, 2001, Sharon Smith and Diane Alexis Whipple were living their lives as a committed lesbian couple. Together for seven years, their lives were filled with friends, work, travel, early morning runs, and a few quiet dinners alone. They planned to continue mingling their hopes and dreams well into the future. They had begun plans to have a child. On January 26, 2001, Sharon's life with Diane ended in a most gruesome and unimaginable way. You know the rest of the story.

There can be few traumas more able to break the heart than the death of one's lover, best friend, soul mate. Many have endured such loss. Few have had to suffer it in the unique circumstances faced by Sharon Smith. As we approach the one-year anniversary of Diane's death it is impossible not to be reminded of what occurred on that warm and sunny January evening last year. All last week, as the defendants who owned the dogs headed toward their criminal trial, we saw the headlines. Lurid allegations of bestiality mixed in with suggestions of links to the Aryan Brotherhood, vicious dog rings, and the still puzzling adoption by the defendants of a life-term murderer. In the wake of such sensational goings-on it is difficult to focus on the woman at the center of this unprecedented tragedy and her life with her partner, Sharon Smith.

Diane Alexis Whipple was born on January 21, 1968 in Princeton, New Jersey. Her true hometown was Manhassett, Long Island where she grew up and went to high school. Diane was raised primarily by her grandparents and it became obvious early on that she was no ordinary mortal. Her athletic prowess was an ever-expanding talent and lacrosse was her sport of choice. A two-time All American in high school and at Penn State, perhaps no other factor more defined Diane's life than her athletic talent and drive. She was among a very few elite athletes in this country. She was a member of the World Cup team in Lacrosse ... twice. After she and Sharon met and Diane moved to San Francisco, she came within seconds of qualifying for the 1996 Olympic Team in the 800 meters. Her failure to make the team was one of the most crushing disappointments of her life.

The inspired athlete became an inspiring coach and teacher when she assumed the position as the lacrosse coach at St. Mary's College. Throughout this past year of coming to know Diane I have been struck time and again by the comments and notes from the athletes and students she coached. She was a beloved and memorable mentor.

It is impossible to be around Sharon and friends who knew Diane best and not begin to believe what they all do, that Diane's spirit survives and that her presence is still felt. Diane's mantra was "Live Life to its Fullest," and says Sharon, she did. It was impossible to be around her and not laugh, impossible to be in her sights and not feel lighthearted. "I was the planner," says Sharon, "and she lived every day as if it was her last. I think she must have known something."

Were it not for its end the life Sharon and Diane shared is familiar. But of course it is the end that calls us to act. Sharon heard the call almost immediately, or actually not so much a call, but a voice, Diane's voice Sharon insists, urging her to stand up and speak. Sharon has, and we are all better off for her doing so.

Early on, Sharon made the decision to file her wrongful death action, to legally hold the defendants accountable for their negligence and recklessness. Never before had a lesbian surviving partner been legally recognized as a spouse entitled to bring such an action and of course there were many doubters to Sharon's lawsuit. But last July, a San Francisco judge agreed and ruled that Sharon did have a legal right to proceed with her lawsuit. The case is continuing with trial expected later this year after the conclusion of the criminal proceedings against the dog owners.

Over the past decade this country has seen a sea change in the discourse about lesbian and gay couples and our legal rights and responsibilities. For the first time in our history there has been an active and sustained debate about lesbians and gay men having the right to marry. In this landscape Sharon's case struck a chord. This public engagement and awareness cannot help but assist us in securing greater legal protections and security for lesbian and gay couples. Already in California we've seen gains made with AB25, legislation sponsored by our own Assemblywoman Carole Migden that is now law, and includes the statutory right of a registered domestic partner to sue for wrongful death.

Sharon Smith's fight has been a key factor in the recent gains we've made in California and the national dialogue that continues about the legal status of lesbians and gay men. A part of the very reason Sharon took on the challenge was to assure that no other surviving partner would have to face the insult of being told that his or her relationship was legally meaningless. Sharon is relieved and proud of her role in the protections we've recently secured. But of course, Sharon's real inspiration is a woman who this past January 21, would have been 34, and who would have celebrated that day with love, much laughter, some champagne, and great hopes for the future. ▼

Kate Kendell is the executive director of National Center for Lesbian Rights.

LETTERS

Legitimate campaign issue

The recent controversy over Harry Britt's hurtful comments to Mark Leno [*"Britt's comment on 'young guys spread disease' stuns politicos," January 17*] evokes an interesting question: Is it a legitimate campaign issue to discuss whether a candidate has the temperament to hold the office he or she is seeking?

Telling an ill-timed and ill-conceived joke is hardly anything noteworthy. I tend to be rather free with my comments and have put my foot in my mouth before. It is crucial in those circumstances, however, that you take responsibility and acknowledge when you have caused someone pain, intentional or not.

Regardless of whether Harry intended to make a subtle reference to AIDS by saying "you younger guys cause disease" in refusing a kiss, or whether he intended to evoke the loss of Supervisor Leno's life partner, neither of these inferences is unreasonable.

So far we have heard two equally inappropriate reactions from the Britt campaign. First was the flat denial that it was said, but that explanation crumbled when the remarks were confirmed by a trustworthy third party. So Britt changed course and began to attack Supervisor Leno for being offended.

This is where I have a real problem.

Mark Leno didn't create the sensitivity around the issues of AIDS discrimination and personal loss. His reaction that he is owed an apology from Harry Britt is hardly out of bounds, and his assertion that a forthcoming apology would end the matter entirely seems rather gracious.

Apparently being Harry Britt means never having to say you're sorry. Like anybody who believes he is entitled to wide latitude to act boorishly, Britt is falling back on that traditional refrain of homophobes and sexual harassers: you're being too sensitive.

I can envision a variation of these events where instead of Mark it is a female colleague in the Assembly and the comments were vaguely sexist instead of AIDS-phobic. Would Harry Britt's inappropriate behavior negatively impact the interests of San Francisco and hurt all of us in the process?

More importantly do you believe that Mark Leno, who has spent the last four years of his life under constant scrutiny, is better prepared than his challengers to conduct himself in public as our Assemblymember?

That is why this is a very legitimate campaign issue.

Paul M. Hogan, Chair
Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club
San Francisco

Britt responds

Regarding last week's incident, if Mark interpreted something I said as insensitive to people dealing with AIDS, he should have challenged me on the spot so I could have clarified his misunderstanding. I heard there was a problem long afterwards, when a reporter called my campaign, and I could barely recall what I thought was a casual exchange. One thing's for sure: I would never have made light of the epidemic that has plagued our lives for so long.

I had hoped that two gay men could run for the same office without impugning each other's integrity on the AIDS crisis. Whoever wins will represent a community that struggles with this life and death matter every day. For many years, I had the special responsibility as our only gay supervisor to provide leadership in this fight. It was the most important, difficult and rewarding experience of my political life. I am very proud of what our community accomplished during those years, and I look forward to going to Sacramento armed with the lessons I learned from that experience.

As two gay men who care deeply about this issue, we can do better. This campaign should be an opportunity for Mark and me both to advance the agenda for our community. You'll be hearing a lot from me about what I plan to do in the Assembly about HIV. I will work with everyone in the community, including Mark, to do what needs to be done.

Harry Britt
San Francisco

Nothing wrong with AIDS humor

The only lesson to be learned from the *Bay Area Reporter*'s attempts in last week's issue to smear Harry Britt is that your paper's political agenda is becoming even more desperate [*"Some of Harry Britt's endorsements questioned,"* and *"Britt's comment on 'young guys spread disease' stuns politicos," January 17*]. Neither of the two attacks rose to the level of newsworthiness, as both were essentially rendered meaningless with unmistakably transparent rebuttals provided deep in the latter paragraphs of the stories themselves.

Crying foul over an unaware campaign worker's listing as endorsers the names of people who have supported but not actually endorsed Britt is something that only the most jaded political operative could believe was done deliberately. The unwillingness of the *B.A.R.* to accept that action as a mistake speaks volumes to the obvious determination of your paper to keep progressive LGBT candidates out of office. The *B.A.R.* has sided consistently with the economic elements in our community that care primarily about carting off loads of money from the less well-off as their "contribution" to our community. Their profiteering has made it increasingly impossible for the kind of kid Harvey Milk spoke of from Altoona, Pennsylvania, to get on a Greyhound bus to come here unless he or she nowadays had a seemingly limitless savings account. This seems to be your aim these days in the kinds of politicians and measures you support. Your feeble attempt to cast aspersions on Harry Britt is just the latest example.

Further, who in our community is so out of touch that they haven't heard bantering about our health crisis? In my own dwindling circle of friends we have joked about silly behavior being "AIDS dementia." We have kidded each other about our expanding waistlines being "AIDS insurance." The day our community can no longer laugh at itself for our difficulties is the day we are truly doomed. I understand there is considerable doubt that what you reported was actually said, but even still, it is reprehensible that Britt's bantering with Mark Leno was immediately seized upon by Leno, a man without an articulated political vision in his quest for Assembly, and peddled to gossip-mongering journalists as a warped way to promote his own candidacy, which, heretofore, has been all but invisible.

Mailstrom

Would it not be better for the *B.A.R.* instead to begin discussing the issues? Perhaps you could start by examining one of Leno's latest proposals on the Board of Supervisors, a proposal one newspaper columnist (H. Brown, in *The Call*) has declared a call for segregation. Leno's idea works like this: housing developers are required to include a certain proportion of new units as "affordable" to low and moderate income tenants, most of whom are people of color. Leno wants to allow these units to be constructed at different sites than the market-rate ones, specifically, built in African American neighborhoods. We have long since learned that creating large residential areas of lower income residents is bad social policy. Segregation has never been successful, not here and not in South Africa. It is deeply disturbing that Mark Leno has not learned this lesson. But it doesn't take much imagination to see how advantageous this policy would be in attracting campaign donations from developers.

Alan Collins
San Francisco

'Ambush politics'

The Leno campaign has reached a new low with its latest accusations, engaging in the type of ambush and attack politics that we have come to expect from right-wing Republicans.

We remember that back in 1998, during the supervisorial race, Mark Leno accused fellow candidate Tom Ammiano of making a racist remark about Mayor Brown. Leno had misheard a joke about "Borsolino" hats, and thought Ammiano had said "Porcelana," the skin cream. Leno leapt to the conclusion that it was some sort of racist joke about skin color. He was wrong then, and apologized, but not before he spread misinformation all over town.

Regarding Leno's current accusation, Harry Britt has stated that he did not make the comments attributed to him. Two of Britt's campaign volunteers were present at the meeting of Leno and Britt and have stated that Mark and Harry had their conversation without Hongisto nearby, and that both candidates were friendly and warm during the entirety of their conversation.

Dick Hongisto and one of Leno's campaign aides both verified Leno's version of what happened. So we now have a case of "he said, he said." But many of us remember that Hongisto, a Leno endorser and candidate for assessor, is the same Police Chief Hongisto who ordered police to remove thousands of queer community newspapers critical of him from newsstands.

Joe Dignan, the *B.A.R.* reporter assigned to this story, is a former intern in Leno's office who was hired by the *B.A.R.* as the Assembly race began. Most newspapers would acknowledge his conflict of interest and not assign him to cover this race. Not surprisingly, the *B.A.R.* coverage of this race has been favorable to Leno and negative toward Britt.

The Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club endorsed Harry Britt in part because of the landmark efforts he made to set up a San Francisco healthcare delivery system for people with AIDS that has become a model for the world. The Milk Club, which played an instrumental role in developing community education around safer sex during the height of the AIDS pandemic, understands that no public official has faced the tragedy of AIDS in a more personal and compassionate manner than has Harry Britt. He and all the constituents of the 13th Assembly District de-

next page ▶

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Mailstrom

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serve better than unfounded accusations, biased coverage, and dirty political games.

Jerry Threet, President
Debra Walker, Vice President
Harvey Milk LGBT Democratic Club

Britt v. Leno

It is a sad fact that politics can bring out the worst in people. Unfortunately, Mark Leno has decided on the tried and true – but, oh so tired – tactic of spinning a yarn about the integrity of his opponent, Harry Britt.

"Nice guy" Mark Leno, together with his ethically challenged political partner, consultant Robert Barnes, continue their history of below-the-belt campaign behavior with their latest attack on Harry Britt, reported as "fact" by the *B.A.R.* last week. Previously, they tried to create a division in the 1998 Ammiano for Supervisor campaign by attributing racist remarks to Tom Ammiano, and claiming that a notorious developer was going to finance Mark's opponent for supervisor in 2000, Eileen Hansen. Both allegations were completely fabricated.

We believe that this is merely another attempt to negate Harry's history of unassailable progressive activism within the LGBT and HIV communities – a record Mark cannot touch with his own politically timid and limited record. We stand by Harry Britt's campaign and his statement that he did not make the comments attributed to him. We believe that Harry would never make a joke about the horror of the AIDS epidemic. As the person who brought the first HIV funding into SF city and county and as someone who lost far too many of his colleagues, friends, and loved ones to AIDS, Harry took on the epidemic in an aggressive and effective manner and will continue to represent us in Sacramento with vision and leadership.

Further: we call upon the *B.A.R.* to reassign Joe Dignan, the *B.A.R.* reporter assigned to the District 13 Assembly race. A basic rule of journalism is that reporters do not cover stories involving people or organizations s/he has any ties to. This conflict of interest rule must be strictly adhered to if a publication wishes to have any respectability whatsoever. As a former Leno aide, Dignan's conflict of interest is obvious. He should cover other stories. In addition to Dignan, the other writer at the *B.A.R.* who has a similar conflict of interest is Wayne Friday, a Brown-appointed commissioner and Leno contributor. Friday has made it clear over the last year that his column is an unabashed vehicle for Leno's campaigns. While not covered by the conflict of interest rule, Bob Ross, *B.A.R.* publisher and another Brown-appointed commissioner and Leno contributor, creates *B.A.R.* coverage of this race that is uniformly favorable to Leno and uniformly negative toward Britt. Not only is this unfair for a community newspaper, it is a gross disservice to our communities. No longer can the Britt campaign be silent about the *B.A.R.*'s continuing run of innuendo, inaccuracies, and outright attacks on Harry. We need the most accurate presentation of the facts when candidates with very different records and politics run against each other for the honor of representing us.

Several months ago, Leno called Britt his hero and mentor. Now that his campaign is in trouble, Leno has changed his tune. We would encourage Leno and the *B.A.R.* to begin a real discussion of the issues in this campaign, and give both candidates – and our communities – the respect we all deserve. Can we not do better in our political discourse and relationships?

Eileen Hansen, Tommi Avicolli Mecca,
Criss Romero, Howard Wallace
San Francisco

[Editor's note: Bob Ross was appointed by the Board of Supervisors – not the mayor – to the Golden Gate Bridge board, where he served for 18 years. Last year, Board of Supervisors President Tom Ammiano nixed Ross's re-appointment to that board.]

[Joe Dignan responds: My part in that story was to report the incident and get the facts. I took a call from Supervisor Leno reporting it. I then called the two people he said had heard the remark. When I first started looking into it, it seemed really odd to me, too. But both Richard Hongisto and Beverly Wagstaff reported the remark in essentially the same way, with a subtle variation in the case of Wagstaff, that along with the other circumstances gave it for me as a reporter the ring of truth, and not something that they were reading from a campaign-authored script.

Hongisto's report included some background about his relationship with Mr. Britt, and that he had served with him on the Board of Supervisors. He said that, as the B.A.R. *reported, he judged the remark to be typical of Mr. Britt's sense of humor that, as he said, "wasn't just exactly like everybody else's."*

As to my affiliations, I did volunteer in Supervisor Leno's office. When I first started writing for the B.A.R., *he called me into his office and fired me. He said for me to work in both places would be a conflict of interest.*

But because I fear having bias in my reporting, I have been extra careful to try and understand both sides of every campaign-related story I have done.

Based on the favorable reports I have heard from his friends, I'd like to understand that Mr. Britt is basically an honorable man. However, I've never met him or talked to him, but not for lack of trying. When I was working on the piece that ran above the "disease" article about Mr. Britt's endorsements I tried to get him, and his campaign, to provide some substantive rebuttal to the charge that he had faked six endorsements.

I called his campaign office. I called his college office. I called his home. And then I went to his campaign office on the Sunday before the story ran, essentially begging someone to give me some specific explanations of what had happened and a chance to talk with Mr. Britt and get his side of the story. I was refused any contact with Mr. Britt. And no one gave me any specific explanations.]

Endorsement correction

I am writing in response to erroneous comments made in Wayne Friday's column on January 17 in which he implied that Holli Thier, a candidate for Assembly in the 13th District, was not endorsed by the National Women's Political Caucus.

Holli Thier was endorsed in her Assembly race by the National Women's Political Caucus of San Francisco and also by the National Women's Political Caucus of California.

As the endorsement committee chair of NWPC-SF, we wanted to set the record straight – the National Women's Political Caucus of San Francisco is supporting Holli Thier for Assembly. We hope Wayne Friday will mention Holli Thier's endorsement in his column.

Debbie Mesloh
Endorsement Committee Chair
National Women's Political Caucus
San Francisco

More on Holli Thier

I am writing in response to erroneous comments made in Wayne Friday's column on January 17 in which he implied that Holli Thier, a candidate for Assembly in the 13th District, and an out lesbian, was not endorsed by the National Women's Political Caucus locally.

Holli Thier was endorsed in her Assembly race by the NWPC of San Francisco and also by the NWPC of California. In addition, to imply that Holli Thier is not supported by the women's community is an insult to the California National Organization for Women, EMILY's List, the National Women's Campaign Fund and the NWPC-SF and NWPC of California, all of which have supported the only woman and the only lesbian running for the Democratic nomination for Assembly in San Francisco.

Women make up only 30 percent of the Assembly. Holli, an out lesbian, will replace Carole Migden, another lesbian, who did an excellent job of representing all of us in the 13th Assembly District. We know that your publisher and political editor have already endorsed another candidate, but to imply that Holli Thier is not supported by women when hundreds of women locally and statewide are helping to elect her is at best gross misinformation. We also hope that you will give her equal coverage with the other candidates, which so far has not happened.

Holli has also been endorsed by many labor unions and other progressive organizations listed on our Web site, www.hollithierforassembly.com. We expect that Wayne Friday will correct this misinformation and mention Holli Thier's endorsement in his column.

Lisa Beyer, Campaign Manager
Holli Thier for Assembly

In praise of sex workers

I write this letter in open praise of the sex worker/escorts who advertise in this paper. Every professional, not amateur, escort I have encountered in the past 10 years has been gracious as well as gorgeous and a person I would be proud to have as a friend and to invite to a family dinner. Each one of them performs a professional service equal to that of a psychologist or therapist by allowing a full expression of a client's sexual needs and expression. I have shared things with an escort I would never share with a boyfriend or therapist; these men are true sexual intimates and provide a valuable sacred space in which I have been able to express myself. To all of you; I say thanks and continued success. I am proud to have met each of you and welcome seeing you on the sidewalks and in our coffee houses. It is a tough job that includes marketing, customer service, and keeping oneself in top physical condition. It requires all the skills of any entrepreneurship or small business ownership for which I have the greatest admiration and respect as a small businessman myself.

John Cailleau
San Francisco

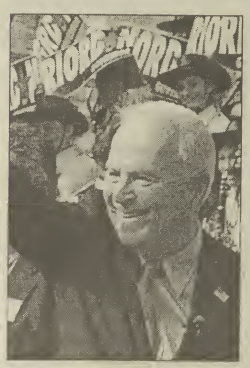
POLITICS

GOP hopes to take out Governor Gray Davis

by Wayne Friday

Three Republican candidates for governor of California – former Los Angeles Mayor **Richard Riordan**, financier **William E. Simon**, and California Secretary of State **Bill Jones** – each have less than two months to convince members of their party that he is the best choice to take on incumbent Democratic Governor **Gray Davis** in November.

The three Republicans met Tuesday night in their first statewide television debate in San Jose; there are two more debates scheduled before the March 5 primary.



Richard Riordan

Riordan, the two-term former mayor of Los Angeles, has been running television ads for a couple of weeks although he is already the best known of the three candidates and clearly considered the GOP front-runner to eventually take on Davis. Riordan, having reportedly raised more than $5 million in donations, also is a multimillionaire in his own right and is expected to rely heavily on his personal fortune to finance his primary campaign and the general election should he make it past March 5.

Simon, a transplanted New Yorker and the son of the Treasury secretary in the Reagan administration, is also a millionaire. He has raised relatively little in campaign funds and is expected to pump his personal resources into his campaign as well.

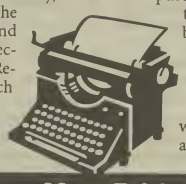
Jones, the only one of the three to ever run for statewide office (and win) has twice been elected California secretary of state. Due to a lack of fundraising ability, however, he is not thought to be able to come in first in March unless lightning strikes his campaign.

Indeed, both Simon and Jones have some fast catching up to do if they expect to overtake Riordan. Unless Riordan, who has a well-greased political operation in place, stumbles within the next several weeks, he should win his party's nod in March.

Riordan, however, is already in trouble with many of the Republican Christian conservatives over his positions on gay rights, abortion, and gun control. Despite those positions, California Republicans seem so desperate to take back the Statehouse that they might not make the mistake they often make of so badly fracturing the party during a primary that the Democratic nominee finds it easier to win the general election.

Simon is said to be buying a lot of television time for the remainder of the primary campaign and has already brought into California his old boss, former New York Mayor **Rudy Giuliani**, for one appearance last week. The popular Giuliani promises to visit the state and stump for Simon at least twice more before March. Despite having "America's mayor" pushing his candidacy, Simon, like Jones, is clearly behind Riordan, and Simon is expected to come in third on March 5.

Jones, a proven GOP vote-getter and probably the first choice of the party's state machinery, clearly does not have the finances needed and could come in a close second to Riordan after Republicans vote on March 5.



Our Man Friday

Meanwhile, Governor Davis, who, according to recent polls, is in trouble with California voters mainly because of his energy and education policies, has himself begun running television ads in major television markets. Davis does get high marks for his handling of security and crime issues and with a war chest that could reach $50 million and his incumbency factor, the guy will be no pushover for any Republican in November. Davis also has a united Democratic Party that wants to keep the governor's office after 16 years of Republicans prior to Davis's 1998 victory.

I think Davis goes into the November election a slight favorite – Riordan has a habit of shooting from the lip and Davis's handlers are just waiting for him to make a comment that could land him in trouble. Riordan, a Roman Catholic, is pro-gay, open on the abortion issue, and vehemently anti-gun – all issues that do not endear him to longtime conservative Republican voters, many of whom can be expected to sit out the November general election if he (Riordan) is the nominee.

Early prediction: Riordan wins the GOP primary (but only after being beaten up by Jones), inherits a wounded nomination, and, despite spending a lot of money, eventually loses in a close one to the powerful incumbency of Gray Davis in November. This is still very much a Democratic state, and the war on terrorism and President Bush's handling of it won't help in the governor's contest.

Politics and people

Oops: Last week's item about the National Women's Political Caucus endorsement meeting, in which it was stated that supporters of 13th Assembly District candidate **Mark Leno** prevented another candidate, **Holli Thier**, from obtaining the group's endorsement was incorrect. After it was announced at the meeting that there was a tie between Leno and Thier, Thier did receive the endorsement of the NWPC's San Francisco chapter as well as the endorsement from the state organization. Some voting members of the organization say the ballot wasn't clear.

Incidentally, isn't there some kind of law (Proposition 34) that says contributions and independent expenditures of $1,000 or more must be disclosed within 24 hours of the time they are made or received? I'm hearing that a couple of contributors – namely, EMILY's List and the Operating Engineers – made contributions of $1,000 and $2,500 respectively to a certain candidate, duly reported the contributions, but the recipient candidate hasn't yet reported the sizable contributions. Aren't these rules made for everyone to play by? Just asking.

"Kenny" who? Even some Republicans were amused in Washington as **George W. Bush** and **Dick Cheney** desperately try to put some distance between themselves and the top brass at Enron, the bankrupt energy giant. Bush, who loves to give his close friends nicknames, was only a few weeks ago warmly calling Enron CEO **Kenneth Lay** (his single biggest campaign contributor) "Kenny Boy," but during a press conference last week he acted as though he'd never met the guy, insisting that he "hadn't seen Mr. Lay since last spring." A *New York Times* poll last June revealed that 57 percent of those surveyed felt Bush clearly favored the rich and 63 percent felt the oil-wealthy president was a "typical Republican." Recognizing that his overall public approval has soared since September 11, Bush's own campaign people still feel that Bush has yet to shake the idea that he still cares more for the wealthy that donated tens of millions to his three political campaigns than for the people who work for those people – you have only to ask the thousands of Enron employees who lost their jobs and retirement savings to realize this fact. Little wonder that Bush quickly tried to change the subject from "Kenny boy" to fixing the 401(k) pension laws and other things when reporters brought up the growing Enron scandal last week. And where is **Kenneth Starr** when we really need the guy?

My Sacramento spies tell me that our own state Senator **John Burton** (D-San Francisco) has been seeing a lot of state Public Utilities Commission President **Loretta Lynch**; the two reportedly have become very good friends.

Meanwhile, the *Chronicle*'s Matier & Ross tell us that ace political consultant **Jack Davis** is back (well, we had that one two weeks ago, didn't we?) and is set to do battle with Burton's proposed Proposition 45 that appears on the March 5 ballot. If passed, Proposition 45 would allow future Assembly members not already termed-out to run for a fourth term and state senators to run for another term if they collect enough signatures from voters in their districts to equal 20 percent of that district's vote in the last general election. That might not be a bad idea, particularly if it leads to finally eliminating term limits. Don't underestimate the talents of Davis, regardless of how many millions Burton and other incumbents raise to get Proposition 45 passed. Burton would get to stay in office another term (if Proposition 45 passes) but on the other hand if it loses, Burton is out and Davis's good friend and political ally **Willie Brown** (as in

next page ▶

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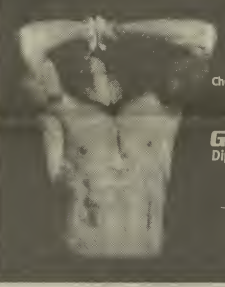

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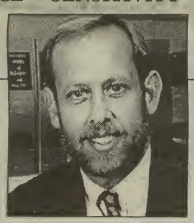
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Giving 'em their due

by Gwendolyn Ann Smith

Things sometimes come together to remind me of the value of preserving transgendered history.

Last week, I was sent a copy of the ballot for this year's Pride Parade grand marshal. While it is still anybody's guess as to whom will be nominated this year, I do recall the number of transgendered people who actually made the final cut in last year's selection. It was impressive to see so many transgendered people being recognized and appreciated by their peers.

There is still time to put in a vote for this year's event, and ballots are available on the Pride Committee's Web site, sfpride.com, as well as other real-world spaces. There are a lot of folks out there who would likely appreciate the recognition for their hard work. But I'm not here to talk all that much about today's heroes, so I'll continue with some of the other events of the week.

On Friday, I attended a fabulous slide show at A Different Light, hosted by Ms. Bob Davis, a collector of transgendered history, and a board member of the GLBT Historical Society of Northern California. In the presentation, I saw a sizable collection of slides – primarily of female impersonators and cross-dressers – dating back to the beginning of the 20th century. It was fascinating to see this chunk of history, and to speculate on just what they may have faced in their era. Certainly, presenting in a cross-gendered fashion, even if only for the stage, must have held some special challenges for these pioneers.

And finally, on Saturday, I got the chance to tour our new community center; a sneak preview of sorts. While I am impressed at this wonderful structure, the two things that most stuck me were memorials. In the main lobby stands the aptly-named "Sylvester Staircase." For those of you reading this who do not happen to recall Sylvester, or weren't even around at the time, Sylvester was a disco diva (some would say Syl was *the* disco diva), who started with San Francisco's own Cockettes before hitting the big time. Sylvester is also someone who is a part of many communities, being an out gay male, a darling in drag, and an AIDS casualty.

The other memorial I saw at the center is a six panel glass skylight, memorializing those who faced psychological abuse simply because of their gender or sexual orientation. It is a beautiful memorial, and my hat is off to Camille Maran for her vision and drive, and Evan Bishop for his skill.

It may seem like I am conflating quite a number of things together, but I have a point to it all. While I think it is important to make note of those serving as role models today, it is also very important to remember those who have made a difference over the long haul. A lot of valuable people end up forgotten to history.

Christine Smith

Transmissions

The transgender community has few icons. At the top of the list is Christine Jorgensen, who, a full 50 years after her surgery made front page headlines, is still one of the world's best known transsexuals. Beyond her, the ranks thin. I doubt that many transgendered people would not be able to name more than a double handful of names, let alone what the general public might be able to come up with. There are many important people who have simply slipped through the cracks.

For example: mentioning Lou Sullivan, the founder of what is now FTM International, will likely get you more than a couple blank stares. The same could be said for any number of transgendered individuals who have graced both the newspapers and the hearts of transgendered people the world over.

Some, like Mr. Sullivan, were from the San Francisco Bay Area. We have a transgendered history that goes back to – at least – the late 19th century. In those rough-and-tumble days of the post-gold rush era, San Francisco not only had a female-to-male *San Francisco Chronicle* reporter known as Jack Bee Garland, but also a news and bookseller who would transition soon into the new century, becoming "Johanna O." She was one of Dr. Magnus Hirschfeld's subjects in the groundbreaking book, *Die Transvestiten*. Yet both are little known today.

Beyond these early names, there are any number of people from the local female impersonator clubs and tranny bars, as well as some of the early activists who rioted at Turk and Taylor in the mid-1960s. Further still, there are officers and members of many early organizations, from the Golden Gate Girls and Guys to COG (Conversion Our Goal) and CATS (California Association of Transsexuals).

Of course, like those hinted at in the glass of that wonderful skylight in our new LGBT Community Center, there are many more who suffered through the medical system. There are also the sizable numbers who we only remember through their obituaries.

All of these people, in their own way, have helped to shape the world we live in, or served as role models for those who are around and active today. Many are now nameless or faceless, lost to history. Many others are still known, at least by academics and others.

It is important to remember the role models of today, and to honor them at events such as the Pride Parade. It is also important to never forget those role models of the past, who came before and paved the road.

Yet we only know of those from our past by remembering our history, through the memorials of our new center, or collections like those of Ms. Bob Davis and the GLBT Historical Society.

It is through our history that we will gain the strength to make further change. ▼

Gwen Smith is an unashamed collector of transgender history. She can be found on the web in Gay.com's "Transgender Gazebo," and at www.gwensmith.com.

Our Man Friday

◀ previous page

S.F. Mayor Brown) would have a state Senate seat to run for in two years when he is termed out of his City Hall office. (Gee, never even thought of that before … **Carole Migden**, are you reading this?)

Supervisor Mark Leno is taking the political high road over that recent ill-timed "you younger guys spread disease" remark made to him by opponent **Harry Britt**. Leno is a first-class dude, and from where I sit he looks like a statesman over the incident (well, at least a future assemblyman).

Tell me it isn't so: Members of the Alice B. Toklas LGBT Democratic Club tell me that their long-time political affiliation with Mayor Willie Brown is "all but totally gone" after a recent meeting they held with the mayor in his City Hall office. Seems Alice's board is annoyed at Brown for putting up another candidate (**Steve Phillips**) against Alice-endorsed Mark Leno, whom the mayor originally appointed to the board, in the current 13th District Assembly race. Alice chair **Paul Hogan**: "Alice will do anything it has to do to secure the election of Mark Leno to the Assembly and we [Alice] have a long history of being vigorous in support of its candidates." Alice exec board member **Theresa Sparks**, a Human Rights Commissioner, commented that, "Alice is now less affiliated with Mayor Brown that it's ever been."

The Democratic National Committee last weekend voted to allow states to hold their presidential nominating contests more than a month earlier in 2004 than in 2000 to follow the Republicans' front-loaded schedule. Iowa and New Hampshire will retain their traditional leadoff roles: Iowa on January 19 and New Hampshire on January 27. But the new plan allows other states to hold races as early as February 3, 2004, five weeks earlier than permitted in 2000.

Last Friday's *New York Times* ran a feature story about San Francisco being a "famously tolerant City" that is "growing impatient with the homeless" (but guess you already knew that, didn't you).

And how was your week? ▼

COMMENTARY

Pity Pat

by Dale Carpenter

The publication of Patrick J. Buchanan's death-obsessed new book, *The Death of the West: How Dying Populations and Immigrant Invasions Imperil Our Country and Civilization*, invites reflections on how far we've come on the issue of gay equality in a very brief time. Buchanan, a senior adviser to Presidents Nixon, Ford, and Reagan, and a sometime syndicated columnist and television commentator, has written a book that lays bare how pathetically far the mighty may fall.

OutRight

In 1992, Buchanan was at the pinnacle of his political influence. That year, he stood before the Republican National Convention as a candidate for the GOP nomination for president to declare that America was in the midst of a culture war. Arrayed on one side were the Bible-believing advocates of traditional family values, he said. On the other side were the godless sodomites and all the other leftovers from the 1960s who were literally hell-bent on destroying the American way of life. On the floor of the convention, young men in starched shirts and ties paraded around with signs proclaiming, "Family Rights Forever, Gay Rights Never."

The first President Bush, unwilling to repudiate the divisive belligerence of the "Buchanan Brigades," was beaten soundly that November. It was a turning point for the country and, in retrospect, for the GOP.

Buchanan ran for the Republican presidential nomination again in 1996. This time he not only lost the nomination but was not even allowed to address the convention. By 2000, he was so far outside the mainstream of the GOP that he bolted from the party and won the silly Reform Party's nomination for president.

The arc of this history must be very frustrating to Buchanan, and that frustration shows in *The Death of the West*. As the subtitle suggests, the main targets of the book are immigrants, more specifically immigrants with darker skin than Buchanan's. The man has anxiously pored over population projections prepared by the United Nations and concludes that, if present birth rates continue, only 10 percent of the world's people will be of European descent (read: whites) by the year 2050.

In the Buchanan world view, America has become a disorganized "conglomeration of peoples with almost nothing in common." The country has literally been overrun by people with "different colors, creeds, and cultures." Children in the United States today "will spend their golden years in a Third World America" where hordes of lazy people of color mooch off the beleaguered white minority.

We've been here before. At the turn of the last century, when immigration rates were proportionately much higher than they are today, Buchanan's ideological forebears warned the country was being invaded, in the words of Senator Henry Cabot Lodge, by "the most dangerous elements … who would wipe out the pure native breed." These new arrivals, largely from southern and eastern Europe(!), had "neither skill nor energy, nor any initiative of quick intelligence," according to then-Professor Woodrow Wilson in 1902.

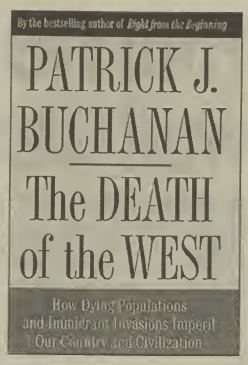
Of particular concern was the arrival of Irish Catholics – people like Buchanan – who were bringing an alien religion to our pristine Protestant land.

In short, Buchanan refuses to accept a central lesson of our history: that each wave of immigrants has enriched and enlivened the nation.

He is a crypto-racist barely deserving the prefix. I figure the country left him behind in 1957, about the time President Eisenhower sent federal troops to Little Rock, Arkansas to desegregate the public schools there.

Piling error high atop error, Buchanan also blames gays for the country's predicament. Moral degradation, long present in the form of "rampant promiscuity and wholesale divorce and taxpayer funding of abortion," has for him reached a nadir in the increasing acceptance of gay civil rights.

"By the very way in which they define themselves, the homosexuals are killing themselves, physically, morally, and spiritually," writes Buchanan. "Homosexuality is not liberation, it is slavery. It is not a lifestyle, it is a death style." To defend the death-style theory, Buchanan has taken to reciting long-discredited statistics that purport to show the average gay man has a life expectancy of 42 years, even if he doesn't have AIDS.



Then there's this gem: "[H]ad the killers of Matthew Shepard chosen a sixteen-year-old girl rather than a twenty-one-year-old gay man," he writes, for no apparent reason other than to show his low regard for the value of a gay man's life, "her rape-murder would have been to me an even greater evil."

"Homosexuality is not redemptive; it is addictive," he observes, prompting the perhaps indelicate question, *how would he know?*

None of this is new, of course. Buchanan has been fighting this rhetorical war at least since he wrote in a column in the mid-1980s that AIDS is God's punishment of homosexuals. What's new is the political climate into which *The Death of the West* appears.

Instead of waging Buchanan's culture war against gays, the current Republican occupant of the White House hires openly gay people in his administration, maintains a policy protecting gays from discrimination in federal employment, and publicly condemns televangelists who suggest homosexuals are partly responsible for the terrorism of September 11 by making God mad at their wickedness.

If Buchanan's culture war is not over, there is no question which side is in full-scale retreat.

With a relentless pessimism uncharacteristic of Americans, Pat Buchanan hates what we stand for: individual rights, religious pluralism, and opportunity for all, regardless of color. A man without a country, he almost deserves pity. Now *he* is the alien on our shores. ▼

Dale Carpenter is a law professor. He can be reached at OutRight@aol.com.

Leather community video and panel Sat.

by Liz Highleyman

This Saturday, January 26, members of the leather community and other interested people are invited to the San Francisco premier of *Out of the Darkness*, an educational video about the BDSM/leather/fetish communities.

Out of the Darkness, created by activists Mark Frazier, Hardy Haberman, and Lynda Blakeslee, aims to educate people about the myths and realities of BDSM practices and the BDSM community. The video features interviews with mental health professionals and human sexuality researchers, as well as well-known leather community leaders such as Joseph Bean, Jill Carter, Viola Johnson, and the late Tony DeBlase. The video covers both the history and contemporary activities of people in the leather community – LGBT and heterosexual alike. In addition, the film discusses how consensual BDSM practices differ from non-consensual abuse. It is intended as an educational and outreach tool for healthcare, religious, legal, and law enforcement professionals.

The video showing will be followed by a panel presentation and audience discussion. The panel will feature the film's three producers, local community members Race Bannon and Dr. Charles Moser (both of whom appear in the film), therapist Maggi Rubenstein, and Rabbi Jane Litman.

According to event organizer Evan King, the showing is intended as "an attempt to get the different segments of the San Francisco Bay Area leather communities together."

The local showing of *Out of the Darkness* is free, and is co-sponsored by the Exiles, the Society of Janus, San Francisco Sex Information, Castlebar, and CineAccion. Sign interpretation for the hearing impaired will be provided. ▼

***Out of the Darkness* shows at 7 p.m. at the Brava Theater, 2781 24th Street near York. The video is also available for purchase at www.leathervideo.com.**

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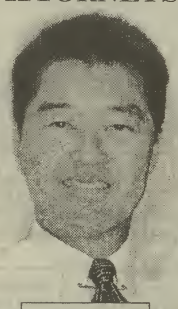
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Chad Johnson: From GOP supporter to head of Stonewall Democrats

by Bob Roehr

Chad Johnson, 34, is a big strapping fellow as hearty as wheat from the Kansas plains from which he hails. His voice has a midwestern flatness to it, and he names former Senator Bob Dole as the political role model who first got him interested in politics. It's not the stereotypical background one would assume for the executive director of the National Stonewall Democrats. But then, no one who knows him would describe Johnson as a stereotype.

He went east to Harvard for college, came out in his senior year and started dating Jarred Barrios, now a member of the Massachusetts Legislature. After the rejection letter from Berkeley, he stayed at Harvard for law school, followed by a clerkship with a federal judge in Puerto Rico. Johnson calls the latter experience "lonely and exciting at the same time. You were constantly educating people just by being yourself."

He had always been attracted to politics, especially the public service aspects of politics embodied by Martin Luther King and Robert Kennedy. He said, "I wanted to be in a position to do that kind of work in politics at one point."

It led him to an internship in Dole's office, summer work in Washington law firms, and permanent relocation to the capital in 1993 to practice regulatory law with the prestigious law firm Skadden, Arps. He "was relatively happy doing regulatory work because the firm was so great about my doing a lot of pro bono legal work for gay organizations," such as filing papers of incorporation and securing tax exempt status for their education arms.

The list of organizations that he helped grew to include the Gay and Lesbian Victory Fund, and Gay and Lesbian Activists Against Discrimination. Law school classmate Michelle Benecke recruited him to the board of directors of the Servicemembers Legal Defense Network where he served as co-chair.

But after seven years of recording every tenth of a billable hour at Skadden, Johnson was ready for other challenges. It helped that he had "made some decent investments," which gave him "a little flexibility" and freedom.

Gore campaign

Johnson's loyalties to the Republican Party faded as the religious right began to assert control. By the time he came out in college, he identified as a Democrat. He joined Al Gore's presidential campaign in 2000 and became deputy to longtime gay politico Jeff Trammell, who ran campaign outreach to both the gay community and business leaders.

Bob Roehr

Stonewall's Chad Johnson

"It was great until election night," he said, referring to the contested 2000 election.

Johnson was among the squad of staffers flown into Florida to monitor the recounting of ballots and disputes over those little hanging pieces of paper on punch cards. "It was not a good time to be named Chad," he said with resignation. "No one would believe that was my name, they would just laugh." But his birthright ended up working to his advantage, "By the time I left there, everyone knew who I was."

"Had Ralph Nader not run, had he not been the spoiler that he was, we would have Al Gore in the White House and we would have a much friendlier administration," Johnson asserts. "We would have two or three hundred political appointments instead of really only one."

The Supreme Court decision resolving the election squabbles was a "depressing" one for him that led to a period of soul-searching. He was about to start another venture when word came through friends that National Stonewall Democrats was looking for a new executive director. He had done the legal work that set up the organization five years earlier, so he checked out his sources inside the organization to see if he should apply.

NSD was formed by existing local groups with "the overriding mission to serve the clubs and their membership, to get the word out as to why, in almost every instance, in almost any election, the Democrat is going to be better on gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender issues than the Republican."

Johnson points to the Republican Party platform as being "incredibly anti-gay," while the Democratic platform is much more supportive. The Democratic National Committee has an outreach program to the gay community, "We area part of the Democratic Party family, we are a constituency group."

The Log Cabin Republicans group doesn't have that, he said, because they are not sitting at the table at the Republican National Committee. "They are not really embraced as part of the [Republican] family and that makes it harder for them."

Building Stonewall

Johnson inked his contract on October 5 and began working immediately. He admits that the group has "real and perceived baggage, and I've had to work against that." Those problems include a bitter internal fight that saw one executive director depart after about a year on the job and an acting director appointed to hold things together for a number of months.

He wants "to make Stonewall the most effective organization as possible for grassroots Democrats. He said that the local groups have to be empowered and have the tools in order to reach a level of sophistication where they can make a difference politically. Part of that can be done by having the long established clubs "helping along" the newer ones.

Another way is by using the organization's Washington contacts "to funnel information out as quickly and efficiently as we can to the grassroots to use as a tool." Part of it will be in "a watchdog function" to make sure that Democrats move pro-gay legislation forward and don't take the community for

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SEPTEMBER 11

GAY & LESBIAN FAMILY FUND

We Are Family.

Thanks to the generosity of individuals and organizations across the nation, nearly $190,000 has been raised through the Empire State Pride Agenda and the Stonewall Community Foundation to help the surviving partners of gay men and lesbians killed in the September 11 terrorist attacks. This money is being distributed to help offset - in a very small way - the shameful discrimination these families are facing because of the lack of legal recognition of our relationships.

Spread the Word!

If you know someone who lost his or her partner in the attacks, please encourage him or her to submit a confidential application for a gift from the fund. The application deadline has been extended to February 15, 2002. Eligibility criteria and application forms are available at www.avp.org or can be obtained by calling the NYC Gay & Lesbian Anti-Violence Project at (212) 714-1184.

We also encourage all surviving partners to contact Lambda Legal to discuss their options in seeking compensation from the federal compensation fund created by Congress in the days following the attacks. Please contact Staff Attorney Jennifer Middleton at (212) 809-8585 or through www.lambdalegal.org.

EMPIRE STATE PRIDE AGENDA

STONEWALL COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

ANTI-VIOLENCE PROJECT

Fund helps same-sex partners of terror victims

by Katie Szymanski

Although many have been left in the cold by local and federal policies, there is a bright spot for gay and lesbian partners of victims of the September 11 terrorist attacks. The Gay and Lesbian Family Fund, created to assist surviving same-sex partners, has raised over $190,000 to divide equally among everyone who qualifies. Sixteen surviving partners have already applied for aid, and the deadline for same-sex partners to identify themselves to the group has been extended to February 14.

"This is the only gay and lesbian surviving partner fund that we're aware of," said Bill Mattle, executive director of the New York-based Stonewall Community Foundation. The foundation is overseeing the new fund in conjunction with the New York City Gay and Lesbian Anti-Violence Project and The Empire State Pride Agenda. The fund officially took shape in December as a product of two funds started immediately after the attacks by both Stonewall and ESPA.

"Like any minority group, we were aware that there may be some unmet needs for our community, and we wanted to create some sort of safety net," said Mattle of the original fundraising. In time, it became apparent that most of the unmet needs would center around survivor benefits, and the two organizations pooled their money to address those issues.

The organizations also rallied to ensure that New York state would extend crime victims' benefits to surviving partners, a promise that Governor George Pataki made good on last October. A subsequent letter from Pataki and former New York City Mayor Rudy Giuliani in December urged President Bush to allow the federal "September 11 Victims Compensation Fund of 2001" to extend to all those who lost a loved one, regardless of their sexual orientation. Additionally, the Red Cross stepped up its efforts to treat same-sex partners fairly and equitably.

But there are numerous avenues still unavailable to such survivors, including workman's compensation which can pay up to $20,000 a year for life, and veterans and Social Security benefits bound by federal guidelines that define spouses as heterosexuals who are legally married. And outside of New York, even some states' crime victims' funds won't apply to gay or lesbian partners, as is the case for Peggy Neff, who lost her partner in the Pentagon attack in Virginia.

Although the amount distributed by the New York Gay and Lesbian Family Fund likely will not exceed $6,000 per claim, the fund is in its own small way helping to fill the gap left by discriminatory survivor benefits.

"Anyone who knows a surviving partner should encourage them to apply," said Joe Tarver, media director of ESPA.

Eligibility criteria for the fund is as follows: for registered domestic partners or those who entered into a Vermont civil union, a completed affidavit should accompany a certificate of official recognition. For those who did not register, an affidavit should accompany proof of the relationship by establishing any two of the following: joint ownership or lease of vehicles, homes, insurance, bank accounts, or credit cards; joint wills or child care responsibility; evidence of receiving domestic partner health benefits; a photograph from a commitment ceremony; a designation by a partner naming the survivor as an insurance beneficiary or giving him/her power of attorney; and other proof of economic interdependence.

All applications for assistance are held in the strictest confidence, and application forms are available at AVP's Web site at www.avp.org. The fund is also urging surviving partners to contact the Lambda Legal Defense and Education Fund at (212) 809-8585 for information on the federal September 11 fund.

To donate to the Gay and Lesbian Family Fund, contact Stonewall at (212) 367-1155. ▼

Presidential council on AIDS is alive and well

by Bob Roehr

The Presidential Advisory Council on HIV/AIDS is alive and well, with more than two dozen new members appointed to that body but not yet officially announced. The Department of Health and Human Services acknowledged that the appointments had been made and released the names when asked, as required by law, though detailed biographies are not yet ready. A year ago some AIDS advocates had feared that the council might be abolished.

PACHA is getting high-powered leadership in the form of co-chairs Tom Coburn and Louis Sullivan, both physicians. Coburn is a conservative who served three terms in Congress as a strong voice on AIDS issues before observing a self-imposed term limit and returning to practice medicine in Oklahoma. Sullivan was secretary of Health and Human Services during the first Bush administration and is president of the Morehouse School of Medicine in Atlanta.

Coburn earned the wrath of many AIDS advocates with his support of issues such as mandatory HIV testing of pregnant women to encourage use of AZT to reduce the risk of transmission to their babies. However, he argued forcefully for increased funding of AIDS services and he worked closely with liberal Representative Henry Waxman (D-California) to resolve issues in reauthorizing the Ryan White CARE Act, which funds those services.

While Presidents Reagan and Bush created their own AIDS ad-

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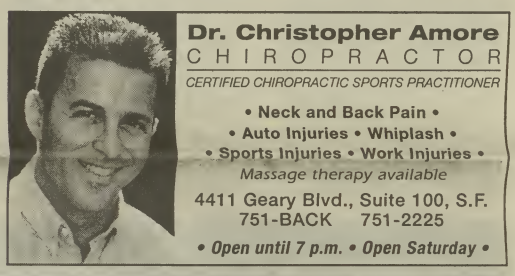


Metaphysical minister coming to town

by Joe Dignan

The Reverend Jim Webb has a Web site, which features an illustration of him beaming back at visitors from between the covers of two of his books. He's a regular columnist in the gay press. And, for as little as $15, he will put you in touch with what he calls, always in capital letters, the MASTERS.

Webb is coming to San Francisco and San Jose later this month to sign copies of his new book, *Pathways to Inner Peace*, and lead channeling sessions. Webb is the senior minister of Takoma Park Metaphysical Chapel in Silver Spring, Maryland.

"I have a direct connection with a group of higher beings," he said. "This is also known as channeling. It's a session held with divine inspiration where people who attend the sessions ask the questions, and I tap into my spiritual connection and get the answers."

Even for those inclined to be skeptical of Webb's connection to the divine, his book contains life lessons and exercises that have been, he says, of great value to many gays and lesbians.

He cites the example of one 52-year old gay client who had been raised a Southern Baptist in West Virginia. "He experienced a great deal of religious and social bigotry," Webb said. "He had shielded himself and hid his true nature for fear he would be rejected by others. He did not love himself and would not let others love him."

Webb explained that this client, while highly educated and out about his sexuality, was not able to realize his true potential either professionally or personally. He taught grade school in Washington, D.C. and had never had a romantic relationship.

"He thought there were these forces outside of him that shaped his life," Webb said, "rather than the confluences of events and self-fulfilling prophesies created by his damaged psyche."

Webb did what he calls "root-cause" exercises to help the client, "discover that part of him that had been smothered for 45 years."

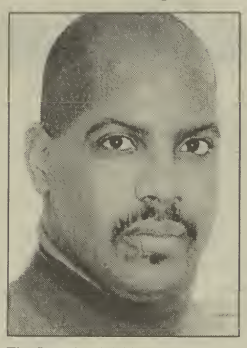
"When the pain came out," Webb said, "it came out in a torrent of tears and emotions, but after it came out, he discovered this part of himself: the child before it had been conditioned."

Webb relates that after this experience his client "went into consulting" and is now "making more money than he ever did before."

"He's now in a relationship," said Webb. "He's much happier now."

Webb introduces himself as an "openly gay, interfaith minister." He says his childhood outside of Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania could be summarized as "poor, black, and gay." His background in marketing has equipped him to explain his ministry with techniques more often associated with selling computer software, which is what he used to do, than in discussing matters of the spirit.

Webb makes a connection between divinity and intuitive consciousness that may not be clear to religious skeptics, and he may dramatize the results, but his basic messages about the need for self-respect and love resonate through the gay experience in America.



The Rev. Jim Webb

Webb will be in San Jose at the Metropolitan Community Church, 65 South 7th Street, (408-279-2711) for a lecture and book signing on Sunday, January 27 at 10:30 a.m. That event is free as part of the church's Sunday service. He will conduct a "Pathways to Inner Peace" workshop from 1-5 p.m. at the church on the same day, for a cost of $20. He will lead a channeling workshop on Monday, January 28 at 7:30 p.m., also at the church, costing $20.

In San Francisco he will be at the new LGBT Community Center at 1748 Market (the center is starting programming prior to its formal opening in March.) for a channeling workshop on Tuesday, January 29 at 7 p.m. The cost is $15. He will sign his book at A Different Light Bookstore, 489 Castro Street, on Wednesday, January 30 at 7:30 p.m. ▼

PRC

◀ page 1

money in to meet payroll and provide services."

The agency's economic downfall began in late September 2001, when a major grant from the U.S. Department of Education ended. The expiration of the three-year, $735,000 contract occurred simultaneously with a sharp decline in the economy hampering fundraising campaigns.

The agency's efforts to reapply for the grant failed, and PRC has not been able to replace the money. In December, executive director Ken Bukowski resigned and the agency laid off four employees just weeks before Christmas.

"In August and September, our former executive director was laying out plans for what he expected to happen," said Mark Murphy, PRC's board president. "It wasn't until October when the board asked for cash flows over the next six months that the problem became apparent. Since that time, people have been working together to find a solution."

No reserve funds

The board admits it did not invest enough resources until early 2001 in development and administration to put the agency in a position to weather difficult times without additional help. The agency has no reserve funds to cover its expenses.

"We are a fierce grassroots agency that has been passionately focused on client services. With the dollars coming in, we always asked how do we use the money to provide more services," said Jane Gelfand, an attorney and PRC's benefits counseling program coordinator.

Until late last summer, the agency had been without a development director. With two staff members now focused on fundraising, the agency has held nearly 15 fundraising events or benefit parties this month. And the board has sent letters to past supporters and community leaders outlining the agency's troubles and asking for donations.

"There will not be one governmental grant or one private donation that will magically eliminate the financial deficit," Murphy and McKeever wrote in the letter.

So far, the fundraising blitz has raised $27,000 toward the $40,000 needed by the end of January.

"Every dollar keeps our doors open. And every day we are open, we are serving clients," said McKeever in an interview.

In addition, the agency is looking to collect close to $15,000 for services already rendered and an additional $130,000 from contracts for 2003 it has already received.

"It is about pulling money in sooner to give us more time to respond, react, and solidify what is happening," explained Murphy. "We want the $40,000 so we can stay open in February and give us another 28 days to come up with a solution."

The agency is also looking to the city for assistance. The board hopes it can negotiate a contract with the General Assistance office or the Department of Public Health to be paid for the services Positive Resource Center provides.

"Positive Resource Center saves the city thousands of dollars a year. We are calling on them to assist us," said McKeever.

By April, the agency hopes to have a permanent executive director in place. Board members also have been recruiting political support, meeting with Supervisor Mark Leno and Governor Gray Davis's regional representative Robert Oakes, as well as talking to Assemblywoman Carole Migden (D-San Francisco) and her staff.

While the agency is a bit shaken from the recent layoffs and budget problems, the staff and board members remain confident they can keep the doors open. Volunteers have pitched in to replace the laid off staff, assisting clients with computer training or resume writing.

"Because we are so successful helping our clients, don't tell us we can't help the 20 people who work here and our agency," said Murphy. "As we see people walking in the door and getting their lives in order, there is no reason why we can't do the same."

"What inspires me is people's resilience against tremendous odds. PRC is also resilient," added Gelfand. "We will come out of this stronger with a stronger infrastructure and a clear message to a larger community about what we do." ▼

On February 6, the show "Late Night Catechism" will donate its proceeds from that night to Positive Resource Center. For more information on the show or how to make a donation to PRC, call (415) 777-0333.

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Be 18 years of age or older

Chad Johnson

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granted, but much of it will be devoted to "exposing the voting record" of Republicans who have learned to talk more moderately, but don't vote that way.

NSD is about to issue a year in review of the Bush administration. It will use a regular Monday morning telephone conference with congressional staffers to share the Democratic legislative agenda for the week, and Stonewall "will get the word out" to appropriate districts.

Johnson has the ambitious goal of doubling the number of local clubs, from 60 to about 120 by the end of 2002, and doubling that again by the end of the presidential election cycle of 2004. His targets are state capitals, cities of over 100,000 people, and places where there are Log Cabin clubs. "I think there are about 300 cities that fall into one of those categories, where we don't have a club. So we have a lot of potential for growth."

He's counting on the NSD national conference, set for April 25-28 in Cleveland, to build enthusiasm and momentum. They are looking to "find creative ways to let people attend," which may include organizing busses to help reduce costs, and are hoping that 300-500 people attend.

"It's important that we not squander the opportunity to really work hard and make a difference" in what he sees as a crucial election coming up. Because recent election results have been so close, both for the White House and in fighting for control of both houses of Congress, "anything that any constituency group can do within the Democratic Party matters." ▼

For more information, visit www.stonewalldemocrats.org.

STATE NEWS

Accused SLA member lived quiet life with partner before arrest

by Ed Walsh

Emily Montague along with her longtime partner, Noreen Lenay, appeared to have the perfect suburban life. They lived in an upscale neighborhood in the Southern California community of Altadena, near Pasadena. The couple's next door neighbor, Natalie Lennon, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that she remembers Montague for her friendliness. She said neighbors appreciated that the couple kept up their home so well.

Until TV trucks showed up in the quiet neighborhood last week, neighbors had no idea about Montague's secret past. They would learn from news reports that their friendly neighbor, Emily, had been using her maiden last name. She was Emily Harris, one of the Symbionese Liberation Army members who spread terror in the mid-1970s and was best known for the kidnapping of publishing heiress Patty Hearst. On Wednesday, January 16, Emily Harris was arrested for murder.

"It was a complete shock," said Lennon.

Emily Harris, her ex-husband Bill Harris, Michael Bortin, and Sara Jane Olson were all charged by the Sacramento County district attorney with murdering Myrna Opsahl during a 1975 bank robbery that the SLA allegedly staged in Carmichael, near Sacramento.

Bill and Emily Harris were arraigned last week on murder charges.

Sacramento County District Attorney Jan Scully said that modern forensic tools helped investigators uncover enough evidence to bring the murder charges.

Bill Harris was arrested outside his home in Oakland while he was taking his two children to school. Bortin was taken into custody in Portland, Oregon. He is fighting extradition to California. Olson was already in custody. She pleaded guilty to planting pipe bombs that targeted Los Angeles police officers and was sentenced last Friday. Police are searching for a fifth suspect, James Kilgore. Authorities say there have been no confirmed sightings of him in over 20 years.

According to Patty Hearst's book, *Every Secret Thing*, Emily Harris was the trigger woman in the Carmichael robbery that resulted in the death of Opsahl who was in the bank to deposit her church's receipts. Hearst said that Emily Harris shrugged off Opsahl's death, calling the 42-year-old mother of four a "bourgeois pig."

Emily Harris served almost eight years in prison for her role in crimes committed while she was a member of the SLA. She learned computer skills while in prison and was able to get work as a computer consultant after she was released.

In a rare recent interview with the *Los Angeles Times*, Emily Harris said: "I made choices and, looking back now, I think some of those choices were extremely reckless and ill-conceived."

Calls to Harris's lawyer and Lenay were not returned. ▼

Appeals court hands Rosenkrantz victory, but he's still in prison

by Ed Walsh

Gay prisoner Robert Rosenkrantz won a major victory over Governor Gray Davis last week when an appeals court ruled that Davis illegally blocked his parole.

The California 2nd District Court of Appeal in Los Angeles issued a strongly worded ruling on Friday, January 18, in support of a lower court's decision that ordered Rosenkrantz's immediate release. The state is expected to appeal the case to the California Supreme Court. Rosenkrantz will likely remain in custody until the high court makes a decision.

In past interviews with the *Bay Area Reporter*, Rosenkrantz said that he is reluctant to get his hopes up after any of the favorable rulings on his case. Twice over the past two years he was told to pack up his belongings and was processed for release but each time his parole was yanked at the last minute by the state.

Last week's decision marks the fourth time courts have sided with Rosenkrantz over the governor who once vowed to block the parole of all convicted killers. So far, two superior court judges and two appeal court panels have found that Davis's virtual blanket policy against parole is in violation of the rights of prisoners who are given sentences that allow for parole.

Rosenkrantz, 34, shot and killed a former schoolmate in 1985 in Calabasas, in Los Angeles County. The shooting ended a chain of events that began a week earlier when the schoolmate, Steve Redman, physically attacked Rosenkrantz before outing him to his parents. Rosenkrantz eventually turned himself in and was convicted of second-degree murder. By all accounts, he's been a model prisoner and has been eligible for parole since 1996.

In last week's decision, the appeals panel voted 2-1 to endorse a Los Angeles Superior Court judge's decision that called for Rosenkrantz's immediate release. The justices blasted Davis's decision to block Rosenkrantz's parole.

"Since there is no evidence at all to support the governor's decision, there is no way to say that Rosenkrantz was afforded the due process of law to which he was entitled," wrote Justice Miriam A. Vogel in an opinion endorsed by fellow Justice Robert Mallano. "Under the most deferential test, we see no way to uphold a gubernatorial decision that is unsupported by any evidence."

With the dissenting opinion, Justice Rueben Ortega wrote that the governor "was free to deny parole based entirely on the nature of the commitment offense.

"Accordingly, the record supports the governor's opinion that Rosenkrantz was fortunate to have escaped a first-degree murder conviction.

"I believe the governor was entitled to consider the serious nature of the offense," noted Ortega, "regardless of the fact that Rosenkrantz was acquitted of first-degree murder. This is not a case where it would have been impossible, as a matter of law, to obtain a first-degree murder conviction. ... The jury's acquittal does not require the governor to put his head in the sand and disregard the well-documented evidence of planning, preparation, practice, and intent that went into the crime."

In response to Ortega's arguments, Vogel wrote that the "circumstances of any past offense, even any murder, are not necessarily a sufficient ground for the governor to reverse a suitability [for parole] finding. All violent crime demonstrates the perpetrator's potential for posing a grave risk to public safety, yet parole is mandatory for violent felons serving determinate sentences."

Vogel also suggested that the governor acted unfairly in the Rosenkrantz case because he has a de facto blanket policy against parole.

"Since the governor assumed office, the [parole board] has held about 4,800 parole suitability hearings and granted parole to only 48 inmates serving indeterminate sentences for first- or second-degree murder," wrote Vogel. "The governor reversed 47 of the 48 suitability findings. The 48th prisoner was Rose Ann Parker, who had served 15 years of a 15 years to life sentence imposed for the murder of her boyfriend at a time when battered woman syndrome was not a defense in California (it is clear that, had it been a defense, Parker would have been exonerated). The governor's decision to allow Parker's release was made in September 2000, long after Rosenkrantz's petition was filed and long after the governor's policy had become a subject of public scrutiny." ▼

Syphilis Update January 2002

Syphilis cases increased in 2001 to a total of 186 from a total of 71 in the year 2000.

Syphilis has been on the rise in San Francisco and Los Angeles among gay and bisexual men.

Syphilis is a Sexually Transmitted Disease caused by a type of bacteria (germ). It can infect men, women, and children. Syphilis can be passed from one person to another during anal, oral, or vaginal sex. It is Easy to Get and Easy to Get RID OF!

Please note that recent syphilis cases have been transmitted by oral sex. Symptoms to look for include:

- A sore in the mouth or on the lips
- Swollen glands on one side of the jaw
- A white patch inside the mouth

Even though these symptoms may go away without treatment, you are still infected

- If you think you have syphilis, go to your doctor or clinic right away.
- It's very easy to treat, but you have to go get the treatment.
- Your sex partner(s) must be examined and treated. If not treated, they can give the infection back to you, or infect others.

Knowledge = Power

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Asylum issues for TG community

by Philip Hwang, Staff Attorney at the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights

The following is an occasional column that answers basic legal questions of interest to San Francisco's transgender, intersex, gender-variant, and genderqueer communities.

At the Lawyers' Committee for Civil Rights, we provide free legal advice and representation to low-income immigrants on their asylum cases. We often get questions about asylum from the transgender community. This column answers the most common questions.

The information provided below is general. Answers to specific questions will depend on your situation. If you or a friend is considering applying for asylum, my best legal advice is to consult an attorney as soon as possible. In the meantime, here is some basic information about applying for asylum based on gender identity persecution.

What is gender identity persecution?

Gender identity persecution is when people are harmed in their home countries because they are transsexual, transgender, or do not conform to gender stereotypes. Persecution can include threats, attacks, beatings, forced sex, mental abuse, and severe economic harm.

What is asylum?

Asylum is a U.S. legal mechanism for protecting immigrants who know, or believe, they will be harmed if they go back to their home countries. People who are granted asylum can stay in the U.S., get a work permit and some public benefits, and eventually apply for a green card.

What do I need to prove to get asylum?

To qualify for asylum you'll need to prove three main things.

(1) You are afraid someone will harm you if you return to your home country. The harm must come from your government or from a group or person that your government cannot or will not control.

(2) Your fear is "well founded" – in other words, there is a real danger if you return to your home country.

(3) Your fear of being harmed is based, at least in part, on your race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or your political opinion. Applicants from California have been granted asylum based on their gender identity.

If you are afraid you would be harmed in your home country because you identify as transgender or transsexual or for one of the other reasons listed above, you may have a good claim for asylum.

How do I know if I should I apply for asylum?

Deciding whether to apply for asylum is sometimes a tough decision. If you win asylum, you will be able to stay in the U.S., work, and apply for some public benefits. But, if you do not win asylum, you might eventually be ordered to leave the U.S. and return to your country. Applying for asylum if you have a weak case can be very risky.

You should make this decision only after you have talked to a lawyer.

Legal Translations

How do I get legal help?

Because asylum law is confusing and because everything you tell or give to the INS may become a part of your asylum record, we strongly encourage you to talk to a lawyer before sending anything to INS. If your one-year filing deadline is coming up or has already passed (see below), get help right now. Don't wait.

The Asylum Program offers free legal help and can be reached at (415) 543-9444. We have no connection to INS. This means that everything you say to us is confidential and cannot be shared with the U.S. government or anyone else without your permission.

If you look for legal help somewhere else, be aware that some people who say they are immigration experts are not experts and may not even be lawyers. Sometimes asylum applicants will pay a notario or paralegal to help them apply for asylum. In my experience, using these kinds of services is often a mistake. If you want to use one of these businesses or think you were harmed by one of them, call the Immigrant Legal Resource Center at (415) 255-9499, ext. 774.

How do I apply for asylum?

You'll need to fill out forms from the INS office and also get documents to support your case. Ideally, you'll get help from an attorney in filing your paperwork. Once you are done with the application, it must be mailed to a central INS office outside of the state.

What happens after I apply?

You will be given an interview with an asylum officer. This officer will look at your application, listen to your story, and ask you questions. In most cases, you will get a decision two weeks after your interview. You will be granted asylum, or your case will be sent to an immigration judge to decide.

If your case is sent to a judge, make sure to show up in court, and bring a lawyer, if possible. You will have a chance to tell your story to the judge, who can grant you asylum. If the judge does not grant you asylum, you can still appeal the judge's decision. You are allowed to stay in the U.S. while you appeal your case.

Will I be able to get a work permit?

It is difficult to get a temporary work permit during your application period. Most applicants do not get any kind of work permit until after they have won asylum.

In general, if the government takes longer than 150 days to give you a final decision on your application, you can apply for a temporary work permit while you wait for your decision.

But, if it takes longer than 150 days to decide your case because of something you did (you asked for more time or you did not show up at a hearing), you will be given a work permit only after you have been granted asylum.

What can I do to help my lawyer?

The most important thing you can do is be as honest as possible. Anything you say to your lawyer is confidential. Your lawyer is not allowed to tell this information to the U.S. government or to anyone else without your permission.

While you might be worried about how some part of your case will hurt your chances for asylum, it is best to talk to your lawyer about this. She or he may be able to calm your fears or help you think through the best way to present the information.

You should also help your lawyer get documents for your case. Some helpful documents include pictures of yourself from when you lived in your home country, a birth certificate or identity card, and letters from relatives or friends that will help prove your case. If you don't have any of these documents, don't worry. You still may be able to win your case without them.

What is the one-year filing deadline?

You are supposed to apply for asylum within one year of your last arrival in the U.S. The INS requires you to mail your application to them before the one-year deadline. It is safest to mail it at least several weeks before the deadline. If you apply after the one-year deadline, without a very good reason, your asylum claim can be denied.

If you have already been in the U.S. for more than one year since your last arrival, talk to a lawyer right away and find out if you can still apply for asylum. Don't wait! Every day you delay may hurt your case.

Can I get asylum if I have been convicted of a crime in the U.S.?

Not necessarily. The INS will deny asylum to anyone who has been convicted of an "aggravated felony." Some people believe that this means a conviction for any crime. It doesn't. So, if you have been convicted of a misdemeanor or even a felony, you are still strongly encouraged to talk to a lawyer to see if you are eligible for asylum.

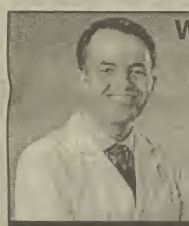
Do I have any options for staying in the U.S. legally other than asylum?

Yes. Even if you can't get asylum, there may be other ways for you to stay in the U.S. if you fear harm in your home country. Two such ways are "Withholding of Removal" and "The Convention Against Torture."

If you missed the one-year deadline for asylum, without a very good reason, or have been convicted of an "aggravated felony," you may be able to stay in the U.S. legally and get a work permit through "Withholding of Removal" or "The Convention Against Torture." You should consult with an attorney to get more information about all your options.

The information provided in this column is not intended as a substitute for legal advice. If you have a legal question about your specific circumstances, please contact an attorney or the appropriate government agency. ▼

The Transgender Law Project is co-sponsored by the National Center for Lesbian Rights and the Pride Law Fund. If you have questions about gender identity discrimination or are a transgender, intersex, gender-variant, and/or genderqueer person with other legal questions, please feel free to contact the project's coordinator and Tom Steel Fellow, Chris Daley, at (415) 392-6257 ext. 308 or e-mail daley@nclrights.org. You can request a Spanish-language pamphlet containing this same information by contacting the Transgender Law Project.



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Queer employee groups are focus of monthly breakfast program

by Matthew S. Bajko

Is your workplace queer employee group a bit lacking in spirit these days?

Out and Equal Workplace Advocates might be able to help. The nonprofit organization's February "Power Breakfast" will focus on how to energize your employee resource group.

Employee resource groups are organized groups of workplace individuals that have banned together to create support for lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender workers on the job. The groups usually offer education on workplace rights and trends and work with a company's human resource department to make sure LGBT policies are brought forth and practiced. They also serve as a resource for social events and networking.

Sponsored by biotech giant Genentech, the South San Francisco company's LGBT employee group will host the meeting Friday, February 1. The scheduled speakers are Chaz Kujak, a SPOC reimbursement case manager at Genentech and co-chair of Genentech Out and Equal, and Tom Donelan, an international tax analyst at Levi Strauss & Co. and a steering committee member of the company's lesbian and gay employee association.

The breakfast costs $10 and will take place from 8 to 9:30 a.m. For further info call (415) 439-4272 or visit Out and Equal's Web site at www.outandequal.org. ▼

OBITUARIES

OBITUARY POLICY

Obituaries must be typed and no longer than 200 words. We reserve the right to edit for style. If you're submitting a photo of the deceased, write their name on the back. If you include a SASE for the photo's return, write the person's name on the inside of the envelope flap. All obituaries must include a contact name and phone number. Deadline for obituaries is Monday at 5 p.m.

Narven Lovell Christensen

April 12, 1925 — January 20, 2002

Narven Lovell Christensen passed away January 20, 2002. Born April 12, 1925 in Ferron, Utah, he is the second son of Joseph Lavell Christensen and Neata Stevens. He spent his early years in Utah and Colorado and at the age of 18 he joined the United States Air Force where he served his country as a valiant fighter in World War II. His bomber days took him into battle, flying 35 bombing missions over various German cities.

Loved by many, he will surely be remembered for his wonderful sense of humor, his quick wit and interesting way of telling stories of his life and life adventures. His service to the needs of others was always of paramount importance to "Chris," as he was fondly known by his friends. The Safeway Stores were fortunate to employ him. He served them faithfully for 48 years.

He is survived by his two daughters, Delona Heimbigner and her husband Jerry, and Paula Fleishman and her husband Marty; five grandchildren, Jerry Shon, Christopher (who precedes him in death), Andrea, Louis, and Jeannine; two great-grandchildren, Brandon and Trystan; and his sisters, Phyllis Trouth (Fred), Doris Griffin (Robert), and Joyce Williams (Bill precedes him in death).

A gathering of friends was scheduled to take place in San Francisco at the Chapels of Arthur J. Sullivan on Wednesday, January 23. Services will also be held in Salt Lake City, Utah, on January 30, 2002, with Visitation from 10-10:45 a.m., with services at 11 a.m. at the Larkin Mortuary, 260 East South Temple. Interment will take place at the Salt Lake City Cemetery.

Zackary Jones

Zackary (Zack) Jones died peacefully last week at his home in San Francisco after a lengthy battle with cancer. He was in his 50s, but no one ever knew for sure.

Despite his illness, Zack kept his sense of humor. He never complained.

Zack had a hip replaced a few years back and, after feeling discomfort, returned to the hospital for a checkup. Asked what happened, he replied: "Oh, they found a few loose screws."

He loved to hold court at Mr. Lee-Ona's bar, his favorite watering hole. Zack had the art of tease down to a science, but with a wink and a smile. He could be ruthless, however, to those who ruffled his feathers.

His many friends will miss his hearty laugh.

A celebration of his life was held on Saturday afternoon, January 19, at Mr. Lee-Ona's (301 Turk St.).

AIDS 'czar'

◀ page 1

croscopic review of everything we are trying to do in prevention across the country," said the 39-year-old Evertz. "I do not see a massive effort to undo years of progress done in prevention work."

Secretary of Health and Human Services Tommy Thompson initiated the audits after Republican lawmakers and radical AIDS activists questioned how agencies were spending HIV prevention dollars. Last fall, San Francisco's Stop AIDS Project found itself the center of the controversy.

Health and Human Services Inspector General Janet Rehnquist deemed two of the project's workshops obscene and potentially in violation of Centers for Disease Control and Prevention guidelines.

"What is frustrating about the debate around the audits is Secretary Thompson has been placed on a bandwagon he really is not on. His inspector general is asking some appropriate questions," said Evertz.

Stop AIDS has maintained it did not violate any rules and had all of its materials for the workshops reviewed by a local standards board. Evertz visited the agency this week to review its programs and materials.

"We are going to go to the source. We are cutting Stop AIDS a lot of slack in having a dialogue with them," he said.

As HIV prevention officials argue for more sex-positive programs to combat the spread of the virus, Evertz said he is still waiting for proof such methods work.

"If there is evidence that sex-positive messages do result in lower infection rates in certain pockets of the community then we should have them," he said. "We need to work with scientists and prevention workers to make sure there are fewer and fewer people who get infected with HIV."

Shanti, Project Open Hand, the San Francisco AIDS Foundation, and the Black Coalition on AIDS were some of the other agencies that also received visits from Evertz. This afternoon, he will meet with the city's HIV Planning and Prevention Council and the HIV Health Services Planning Council at an afternoon reception in City Hall.

As HIV prevention comes under attack, Evertz said he has tried to bring a moderate tone to the debate. He said one of his main goals is to get more of the population who doesn't know their HIV status to get tested and receive treatment if they are positive.

"Targeted prevention works, we know that," said Evertz. "We want to see the infection rate go down. It is a simple goal to state but difficult to accomplish."

Nine months ago President Bush taped Evertz to be his AIDS policy director. Relatively unknown on the national level, Evertz had been one of the "Austin 12," a group of gay Republican activists Bush met with while campaigning in 2000.

In the early 1990s, Evertz worked as a public policy advocate in Wisconsin for people with HIV/AIDS. Evertz also served for several years as legislative director of the Log Cabin Republicans of Wisconsin before being elected president of the state organization in 1998.

He was instrumental in the passage of a Wisconsin law in 1997 ensuring hospital visitation rights for gay and lesbian partners. He also worked closely with then-Governor Thompson on a successful effort to insert language on national AIDS policy into the 2000 Republican Party platform.

Prior to joining the Bush administration, Evertz was providing counsel to an ecumenical, faith-based organization in Milwaukee that operates a housing program for people with HIV/AIDS.

Evertz's appointment has not only been criticized by gay activists – who say he is unqualified for the job and the token homosexual in the White House – but also by conservative groups. Evertz said while those outside the White House have called for his being fired, that conversation is not taking place inside the administration.

Quelling fears that AIDS would fall off the political map after September 11, Evertz said it is still an important issue for the Bush White House. He last spoke to the president December 21.

"It was somewhat personal but then veered. He feels compelled to check in with people post-September 11 to make sure we are not sidetracked," he said.

His close relationship with Thompson has also served to keep AIDS on the agenda, despite the attention that has been given to bioterrorism and the anthrax attacks. Loyal to both the president and Thompson, Evertz credits those close connections with how he fulfills his job.

"I view my role as an advocate as well as a team player. I am a team player first, and an advocate second," he said. "If you are outside of the loyalty of the White House then you are not really listened to."

His relationship with legislators on Capitol Hill is a different story. While he said he has "very positive relationships" with Congresswomen Nancy Pelosi (D-California) and Tammy Baldwin (D-Wisconsin), he has yet to even meet Congressman Barney Frank (D-Massachusetts).

"I don't have one nor do I desire one," he said of his relationship with Frank. "I like [Pelosi]; she is less caustic than Barney."

Within Republican circles, Evertz said his party has made much progress over the last decade. "There are now a number of functions you can use your Log Cabin credentials as credentials as opposed to something you need to apologize for," he said.

He did admit, however, that he was puzzled by recent advertisements placed by Rich Tafel, Log Cabin Republicans executive director, that railed against gay rights activists for using the "politics of victimization."

"I couldn't figure it out. I couldn't figure out the audience or the purpose," said Evertz. "We need to be less divisive in the LGBT community. You don't bring people together by telling them they shouldn't be apart."

With regards to civil unions, he said there are those in the party that can find reasons to support it.

"Some of my friends in the Republican Party who are pretty conservative come down on the side of civil unions. If you believe marriage results in greater monogamy, more commitment to stay together, then the same things should hold true for civil unions," he said.

Evertz said he would enter into a civil union with his partner of seven years, Barry Avery, but for practical purposes.

"There are a whole host of things that automatically happen when a couple gets married. That sounds like a terribly unromantic response," said Evertz, whose partner's 19-year-old daughter attends the University of San Francisco. ▼

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Kicking off the new year

by Jim Provenzano

Triangle Martial Arts Association's 2002 new year kickoff tournament filled the Eureka Valley Recreation Center with martial artists of all belts last weekend.

On Saturday, January 19, the all-day event included classes, workshops, sparring, and judging.

Events included traditional forms of competition, creative forms competition, demonstration team competition, World Tae Kwon Do Federation-style Olympic sparring, AAU-style point sparring, and some socializing time, too.

For Mike Pierce, one of Triangle Tae Kwon Do Club's organizers, the event was a success.

"We had at least a room full of athletes, and the entire gymnasium for the afternoon," he said.

A similar event last year included visitors from around the country, and a few Canadians. This tournament was mainly hosted by Triangle Club's ranks and was a bit more intramural in scope.

UCSF people were recruited to visit. "They're some really talented tae kwon doists," Pierce noted. A black belt test in June will be their next large-scale event.

Raised in Tustin, California, tucked away behind the Orange Curtain where he "got abused for being a queer," like some, Pierce decided to fight back. He taught himself some moves from a martial arts book, "so I wouldn't go down fighting. It came in handy once in high school."

After moving to the Bay Area, he saw a flier for Triangle's club, visited soon afterward, and has been training with them ever since.

Instructor Ken Craig said, following the tournament, that they had received "outstanding black belt officials support from approximately 20 of the Bay Area's best, brightest, and most dedicated Dan holders. We are deeply indebted to all who gave up their Saturday to join us and to help the competitors enjoy a day of wonderful competition. Without the commitment of black belts such as these, tournaments would become a thing of the past."

Jim Provenzano

Martial law: Two women spar at last year's Eureka Valley Rec. Center tournament as a referee notes points.

The rigorous Korean "hitting and kicking" sport comes with its own set of native terminology, which athletes learn. Some also expand their skills to weapons and high-level sparring.

Belt or "gup" levels range from yellow, green, blue, red, "poom," and black, with several layers for some colors.

Master Martin Marcus and Grand Master Bill Dewart along with the tournament committee of Andy Maguire, Joe Burgard, and Jim Gardner helped to ease new competitors into the event by providing short training and information sessions prior to each discipline commencing.

"I heard many comments throughout the day that this was greatly appreciated," said Master Craig. "Although it did little to reduce the butterflies in many stomachs, it at least relieved some apprehension about the rules and how to engage in each activity."

Among the 150 participants at the event, here are some of the winners in several categories:

Traditional (Beginner)
1st: Todd Nguyen & Darius Quan
2nd: Ava Marie Houvinen
3rd: Dominique Stickens

Traditional (Intermediate)
1st: Alex Gonzalez, & Jessica Blumstein
2nd: Jacky Quan
3rd: Tanja Gruber

Creative
1st: Marina Avrutskaya
2nd: Shari Smith-Mead
3rd: L. Labourdent

Olympic Style (Men's - Beginners)
1st: B. Strasser
2nd: Tom Domer
3rd: Adrian Quirante & Todd Nguyen

Point Style (Men's - Advanced Middle Weight)
1st: Daniel Tyraus
2nd: David Sullivan

Point Style (Men's - Advanced Heavy Weight)
1st: Alex Zambon
2nd: Will Nau

Whether you're looking for a good workout, a sports group with a social and intriguing philosophical focus, or a form of GLBT-friendly self-defense lessons, for more information, contact Ken Craig at: instructors@triangletkd.org, or (415) 495-1888.

And now, the promos so popular we're running them again!

Too sexy for my Speedo

Catch a live swimsuit edition of our local water polo team at the splashy Splish party.

Location: Asia SF, 9th and Howard, San Francisco

Phone: (650) 281-1065

Date: Wednesday, January 30, 7-9 p.m.

Join the team and have a great time sending Tsunami Polo to the Gay Games. They've had a few great scrimmages last year, and hope to take on oceanic opponents from L.A., Seattle, and Sydney, among others, down under.

Your admission gets you two drinks, appetizers, and entrée to a fun crowd. Enjoy a Speedo-filled fashion show featuring clothes by Body, Citizen, and the men and women of Tsunami Polo! Water ballet, anyone? Tickets are $20 in advance, $25 at the door. To purchase advance tickets, send your name, phone, and e-mail with a check made out to "Tsunami Polo" to 135 Buchanan Street, San Francisco, CA 94102.

For questions e-mail stevenaronowitz@hotmail.com or visit www.sfstunami.org.

Female footers

The San Francisco Women's Flag Football League (SFWFFL) is recruiting large, strong women to fill specific positions. This sport is available to women that may not fit the mold of a traditional athlete. The league is seeking dedicated team players with good sportsmanship for whom shoulder pads never go out of style.

The San Francisco Women's Flag Football League – for women 18 years and older – features a recreationally competitive league that provides opportunities to enhance your athletic skills, learn football strategy and techniques, and to get involved with your community. The league is run by volunteers who love the game of flag football and welcomes others to learn about it too.

Important SFWFFL dates to remember:

Football Boot Camp 101: Every Sunday until season starts.

February 10: Deadline to register a team.

March 10: Spring season begins.

March 10: Season kick-off BBQ at the Wild Side West, SF 3-8 p.m.

Missed the boot camp last week? Get your butt in gear and go to the next one! For more information, visit www.sfwffl.com.

Get involved on an existing team or enroll your team in the spring 2002 league by contacting Judea Eden at (415) 401-0197 or e-mail at judeae@microsoft.com. ▼

Snowed in? Read more at www.sportscomplex.org. Send your sports info to jimprov@hotmail.com.

Whipple march

◀ page 1

against Noel and Knoller begins today (Thursday, January 24), with jury selection in a courthouse in downtown Los Angeles. The change of venue was granted at the request of defense attorneys who were concerned about the effects of extensive negative publicity in the Bay Area.

The attorney couple was moved early Saturday morning from the San Francisco County Jail to the Twin Towers Jail in downtown L.A., a little over a mile from the courthouse. They are being held on $1 million bail each.

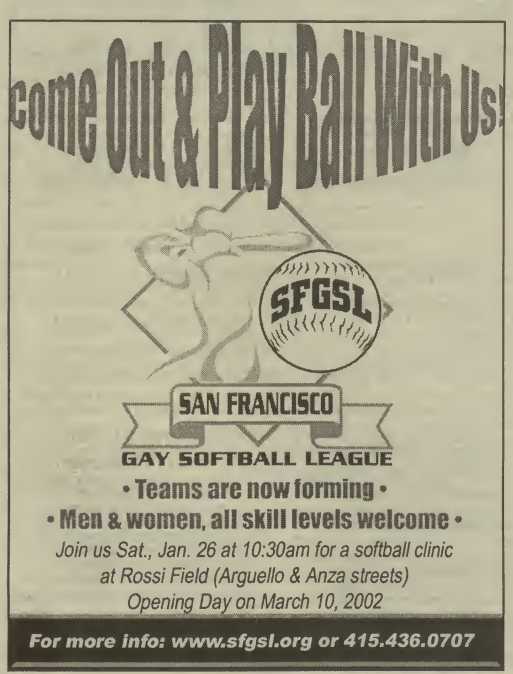
Potential jurors will be asked to fill out a 30-page questionnaire designed to root out those with biases. Jurors will be asked about their knowledge of the case, whether they own any dogs, and about their attitudes or fears about dangerous dogs.

The lead prosecutor on the case, Jim Hammer, told the *Bay Area Reporter* that he expects jury selection to take anywhere from one to three weeks. The trial could prove to be one of the most expensive and lengthy court cases in San Francisco history. Nearly 200 witnesses have been called to testify.

Knoller, who was with her two dogs during the hallway attack on Whipple, is being charged with second-degree murder. Noel faces a charge of involuntary manslaughter. They each also each face a charge of keeping a mischievous animal that killed a human being.

Prosecutors allege that the couple knew their dogs were dangerous but did little to mitigate the danger. Defense attorneys call the mauling a tragic freak accident that no one could have predicted. ▼

For more information on Saturday's vigil and march, call MECA at (877) 356-4125 or NCLR at (415) 692-6257.



CLASSIFIEDS

Council on AIDS

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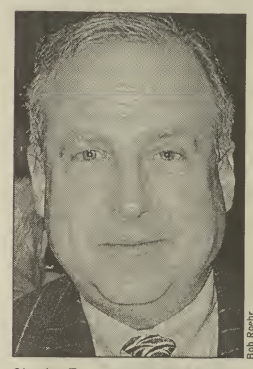
visory bodies, this is the first time that one has been maintained through a change in administrations.

Some observers, and even members of PACHA, saw its size as unwieldy and suggested a reduction. But that did not occur, perhaps because it would have required creating a new legal entity. Current law allows Clinton-appointed incumbents to maintain their seats until a successor is named.

Nine Clinton appointees return to the 35-member body to serve out the remainder of their terms. Several are openly gay or lesbian. Among the new appointments, at least three identify as openly gay.



Bob Roehr

Charles Francis

Charles Francis is a friend of President Bush who organized a gay delegation that met with then-candidate Bush in April 2000. The participants became known as the "Austin Twelve." He later formed the Republican Unity Coalition to work for pro-gay changes within the Republican Party.

Abner Mason is a past national president of the Log Cabin Republicans and has served as chief secretary for Massachusetts Governors Paul Cellucci and now Jane Swift.

Jim Driscoll hails from Portland, Oregon, and resided for an extended period in San Francisco. He has worked as a lobbyist on AIDS issues for Log Cabin Republicans and the ADAP Working Group.

"There clearly were political considerations" in making selections to PACHA, said Terje Anderson, executive director of the National Association of People With AIDS, who is rotating off the council.

One is the pairing of Coburn and Sullivan, conservative and moderate, white and African American. That type of balancing is apparent throughout the new membership, with representatives of most camps present. "It's a good sign that the administration recognizes that we are a complex constituency," said Anderson.

But as with PACHA under the Clinton administration, it remains unclear what issues the members will choose to address, and once they do make recommendations, what impact those will have. Clinton chose to largely ignore several pieces of advice on controversial issues such as needle exchange programs.

Incoming member Driscoll is "hoping that [PACHA] has the potential to accomplish something, which it hasn't in a while." He believes that major areas of interest will include international aspects of the epidemic, dealing with hepatitis C co-infection, Medicaid expansion, and taking a new look at prevention activities. ▼

BAY AREA REPORTER CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL NOTICES

CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

SAN FRANCISCO DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

Free or low-cost health care, (800) 300-9950. If you or someone you know needs immunizations, check-ups, dental care, birth control, pregnancy testing, or prenatal care, call us. We are here to help women, teens, and children find free or low-cost health care. The San Francisco Department of Public Health provides referrals to clinics, doctors, and dentists in San Francisco. Our English, Spanish, Cantonese, and Mandarin speaking staff are here to take your call, Monday through Friday from 8:00am to 5:00pm

WIC Program

Women, Infants, and Children (WIC), Supplemental Nutrition Program provides nutrition education, food vouchers, and breastfeeding support for pregnant women, postpartum women, infants, and children younger than five. Vouchers are picked up at a WIC site on a monthly/bimonthly basis and may be exchanged for milk, cheese, eggs, cereal, juice, peanut butter/beans, and infant formulas in most grocery stores. All WIC services are free of charge. For more information, please call (415) 554-9667.

REQUEST FOR BIDS

SFPUC invites contractors to bid on Water Department Contract No. WD-2367 HARRY TRACY WATER TREATMENT PLANT OZONE SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS

The work consists of replacing the impacted open loop system with a new closed loop/open loop cooling system for the Harry Tracy Water Treatment Plant Ozone System and related tasks. The work is to be performed in San Mateo County. The Engineer's estimate is $959,000.

A pre-bid conference will be held in Room 360C of 875 Stevenson St., San Francisco, Ca. 94103, at 10:00 A.M. on January 29, 2002.

Sealed bids will be received at 1155 Market Street, 7th Floor, (between 7th and 8th Sts.) San Francisco, Ca. 94103, in Room 700 until 2:00 P.M. on February 14, 2002. Plans, specifications and bidding documents are available at the same location at no cost. For further information, please call (415) 554-3497.

VACANCY NOTICE

The Local Agency Formation Commission (LAFCo), pursuant to Government Code Section 56325.1(d) is accepting applications for one member representing the general public that would be appointed by the other members of the Commission.

(LAFCo is responsible for reviewing and approving proposed jurisdictional boundary changes. LAFCo is currently investigating the risks, benefits, and feasibility of various municipal or other public agency options for providing electric and perhaps other utility services. Analytical skills and related expertise in such areas are desirable.

Additional information may be obtained by accessing LAFCo's web site: www.ci.sf.ca.us/lafco/vacancies.

Interested persons may obtain an application form by accessing the City's web site http://www.ci.sf.ca.us/bdsupvrs/vacancies/app.pdf or by contacting the Office of the Clerk of the Board at 415-554-7703. Completed applications should be submitted to the Clerk of the Board. All applicants must be residents of San Francisco, unless otherwise stated. The deadline to apply is February 1, 2002.

STATEMENT FILE NO.253474
The following person(s) are doing business as: Dolls For The Soul.TM. 73 Waller Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Nina Reimer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/10/2001.
JAN 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.253599
The following person(s) are doing business as: ChefMaker. 568 Howard Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94105. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Dolores Silva VP Fin & Admin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/17/2001.
JAN 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.540097
In the Matter of the Application of Rena Naomi Stolove for change of Name. The application of Rena Naomi Stolove, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Rena Naomi Stolove has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Levi Max Stolove. Now therfore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 28th day of February at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JAN. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.540090
In the Matter of the Application of Robert Emmanuel Hernandez for change of Name. The application of Robert Emmanuel Hernandez, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Robert Emmanuel Hernandez has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Robert Emmanuel Jacob. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 21st day of February at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JAN. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0203495-00
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Gourmet Bay Cafe. Located at: 101-A Utah Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: April 02, 1996.
This business was conducted by: a individual: Apinan Veradejkamhaend
JAN. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.540123
In the Matter of the Application of Cecelia Flores for change of Name. The application of Cecelia Flores for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Cecelia Flores has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Antonio John Flores. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 18th day of March at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JAN. 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.540096
In the Matter of the Application of Evan Joseph Rowe for Cheryl Anna Koopmann (minor) for change of Name. The application of Evan Joseph Rowe for Cheryl Anna Koopmann (minor), for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Evan Joseph Rowe for Cheryl Anna Koopmann (minor) has filed an application proposing that her name be changed to Sheryl Anna Rowe. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 28th day of February at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JAN. 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.253810
The following person(s) are doing business as: Wa Yip Trading Company. 731 26th Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94121. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Kwok P. Zung. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/28/2001.
JAN 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.253782
The following person(s) are doing business as: Gourmet Bay Cafe. 101-A Utah Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94104. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Supannee Veradejkamhaend. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 11/27/2001.
JAN 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.253876
The following person(s) are doing business as: Earth Angel Escorts. 12 Raleigh, San Francisco, Ca. 94112. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Victor Manuel Suarez. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/02/2002
JAN 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.253873
The following person(s) are doing business as: Gigler's Auto Body Shop. 3252 19th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110-1917. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Richard A. Gigler. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 02, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/02/2002.
JAN 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.253935
The following person(s) are doing business as: Isle 8 Pictures. 2262 Mason Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Loni Weholt. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 04, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/04/2002.
JAN 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.540102
In the Matter of the Application of Paul James Ramey for change of Name. The application of Paul James Ramey, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Paul James Ramey has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Ramzi James al-Hassan Ramey. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 11th day of March at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JAN. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.254052
The following person(s) are doing business as: Pioneer Builders. 3759 Mission Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110-5844. This business is conducted by a corporation, signed Martocchio Inc. DBA Pioneer Builders, Lido Martocchio- president. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 1998. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/08/2002.
JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.254120
The following person(s) are doing business as: R.J. Williams Publishing. 923 Folsom Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Rocky J. Williams. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 10, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/10/2002.
JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.CPF 02-540116
In the Matter of the Application of Ewa Joanna Ostrowski, Maya Kristina Chan, Julian Paul Chan for change of Name. The application of Ewa Joanna Ostrowski, Maya Kristina Chan, Julian Paul Chan for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Ewa Joanna Ostrowski, Maya Kristina Chan, Julian Paul Chan has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Ewa Joanna Litauer, Maya Kristina Litauer Chan, Julian Paul Litauer Chan. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 19th day of March at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JAN. 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.253937
The following person(s) are doing business as: CMC Traffic Control Specialists. 375 Illinois Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94107. This business is conducted by an individual, signedCrystal J. Miks. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 04, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/14/2002.
JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.254172
The following person(s) are doing business as: You Can Earn @ Home. 639 Diamond Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114-3225. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Franklin A. Newhouse. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 10, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/11/2002.
JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.254175
The following person(s) are doing business as: The Design Partnership. 1412 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by a general partnership, signed John S. Boerger and John W. Kibre. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on August 12, 1979. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/11/2002.
JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.253580
The following person(s) are doing business as: Terrance Mitchell Thibideaux. 231 States Street #4, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by a corporation signed Terrance Mitchell Thibideaux (California). The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 01, 2001. The statement *was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/14/2001.*
JAN 17, 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.254342
The following person(s) are doing business as: Networld. 3221 20th Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94110. This business is conducted by a limited liability company signed NWC, LLC (Nevada Corp)-Gregory Allan Maupin. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 03, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/16/02.
JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.254411
The following person(s) are doing business as: Skorpio Enterprises. 435 Page Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94102. This business is conducted by an individual signed Darnell Gary Smith. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 18, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/18/02.
JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.254422
The following person(s) are doing business as: Capacitas, Gapacitas Consulting. 124 Lower Terrace, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed James Austin Flanagan. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 18, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/18/02.
JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.254310
The following person(s) are doing business as: Network Professionals. 2215-R Market Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Gerid Santner. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on N/A. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/15/02.
JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.253891
The following person(s) are doing business as: Axum Cafe. 1233 Polk Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94109. This business is conducted by an individual signed Tsegai Berhe. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 02, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/02/02.
JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

CLASSIFIEDS

LEGAL SERVICES

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email: Bestlaw1@aol.com

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LEGAL NOTICES

STATEMENT FILE NO.254292
The following person(s) are doing business as: West Wind Commercial. 646 Corbett Street #203, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual signed Richard Christopher DiTullio. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on January 15, 2002. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 01/15/02.
JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

STATEMENT OF ABANDONMENT OF USE OF FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME. FILE NO: 0232992-00
The following person (persons) have abandoned the use of the fictitious business name known as: Madd Kru. Located at: 719 Jerrold Avenue, San Francisco, Ca. 94124. The fictitious name referred to above was filed in the County of San Francisco on: July 08, 1999.
This business was conducted by: a individual: Darnell Smith- owner/president
JAN. 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

NOTICE OF APPLICATION TO SELL ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES
To Whom It May Concern: The Name of the Applicant(s) is: Embaye Michael. The applicants listed above are applying to the Department of Alcoholic Beverages Control at: 185 Berry Street, suite #5600 San Francisco, Ca. 94107, to sell alcoholic beverages at: 421 Beach Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94133. Type of license Applied for:
41-ON SALE BEER AND WINE EATING PLACE
DATE: JAN 24, 31, FEB 7, 2002

JOBS OFFERED

LARKIN STREET — Helping kids get off the streets for good.

Founded in 1984, *Larkin Street Youth Services* (LSYS) is nationally recognized for its innovative and effective medical, psychosocial, employment, education, and housing services, serving more than 3,000 homeless and runaway youth annually. Our mission is "To create a continuum of services that inspires youth to move beyond the streets. We will nurture potential, promote dignity, and support bold steps by all."

Come be a part of making a difference in young people's lives!

Manager of Overage Youth Services: This newly created position is designed to work closely with the Director of Overage Youth Services, providing leadership and day-to-day management of Lark Inn (40 bed emergency youth shelter), Case Management, and Avenues to Independence (transitional living program). Working to help guide the Overage portion of the agency's services. Responsibilities include daily operations; supervision of staff, volunteers and interns; development and implementation of program services; management of program budgets; grant writing support, and maintenance of facilities. MA or MSW strongly preferred; this person will serve on the agency's middle manage-ment team. Minimum four years staff supervision experience required. Excellent written and verbal communications skills a must! Salary is $45-52K DOE.

LOFT Coordinator: The LOFT (Larkin Opportunities For Transition) is a new 12-bed transitional living facility designed to meet the unique needs of underage homeless youth in San Francisco. The LOFT places a strong emphasis on career planning and assessment, and on the development of workforce readiness skills necessary for transition to economic self-sufficiency. MSW strongly preferred, MA in related field accepted. Minimum of three years working with adolescents required. Two years of supervisory experience preferred. Primary responsibilities: management of the day-to-day operations of the LOFT Program, which include supervision of staff, volunteers, interns; development and implementation of program services; grants management; and management of budgets and finances. Provide overall clinical supervision to the program team. Liaison to Medical Clinic, Homeless Youth Network Program, Department of Human Services Homeless Team. Salary range is $41-43K, DOE.

ATI Coordinator: A key player in the Overage Youth portion of our continuum of services, specifically for the direction and growth of our Avenues to Independence Program (ATI), serving homeless and runaway youth ages 18-22. Responsibilities include: career and job readiness assessment, management for high functioning homeless and runaway youth, staff supervision (6-8 counselors), management of day-to-day operations of the program including grants management, management of budgets and finances. ATI is an innovative employment career development program, housed in a 14 bed transitional living facility. Energetic and creative thinker is a must! Three years of youth program management, and experience with homeless and runaway youth required. Masters in related field, preferably MSW. $41-45K DOE.

All positions are full time and receive medical, dental, vision, long-term disability, life, legal, and employee assistance plan. Three weeks vacation accrual in first year, twelve agency holidays annually.

Larkin Street Youth Services is an equal opportunity employer. We place a high value on workforce diversity.

Send cover letters and resumes to:
LSYS-HR, 1044 Larkin Street, San Francisco, CA 94109

Or e-mail to jobs@lsyc.org

STARR KING SCHOOL FOR THE MINISTRY

Starr King School for the Ministry is a progressive theological school in Berkeley, California and is seeking two full-time positions.

Executive Assistant to the President:
Job duties include; scheduling & travel planning, correspondence, maintaining files, and greeting & hospitality. Proficiency in MS Office & Corel Suites as well as a high degree of organizational skills are required. Previous experience in setting up a small office is a must. Other duties as required.

Receptionist/Assistant to the Vice President:
Job duties include; answering telephone, greeting visitors. mail processing, supply maintenance, editing online newsletter, facilities scheduling and general day to day oversight. Proficiency in MS Office & Corel Suites are required. Other duties as required.

Please submit resume to:
Thomas W. Smith, Starr King School for the Ministry,
2441 Le Conte AVE, Berkeley, CA 94709;
or Email starrking1@aol.com; FAX (510) 845-6273.

For more information about the school, visit our Web site www.sksm.edu. These jobs will remain open until filled.
No telephone calls please. SKSM is an Equal opportunity employer.

DANCERS WANTED
Club 220 is always looking for new talent! Great pay & tips for part time job.
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Experience or not. All types.
Shooting Every Week
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Send resume to:
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Fax 510-450-8892 or e-mail svnahhr@sutterhealth.org

Caregivers wanted for elderly care $8-$10 an hour. Live in and hourly available. Car is a plus. Call David at 415-273-1497. CNA's & HHA's
E07

BROKE AND HORNY?
SF video company is looking for TOPS! Make $ while having LOADS of fun! Check out our free website at www.treasureislandmedia.com, then emailcharlie@treasureislandmedia.com or call (415) 437-6696
E04

MEDICAL RECEPTIONIST
Union Square HIV practive seeks pleasant, bright individual for P/T Front Desk (30-35 Hrs/wk) Call Edgar (415) 397-0700 or Fax Resume to (415) 397-6805.
E04

HAIR STYLIST
Chair rental Noe Valley salon grt loc 415-641-1700
E04

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
For substance abuse services provided. Excellent computer skills required. Experience with multicultural, health/human services; bilingual preferred. Phones/email, maintain database, minutes and supplies. $27-30k, DOE. Cover letter/resume to: HAFCI-SATS AA position, 1443 Chinook Ct., San Francisco, Ca. 94130.
E04

Wanted cashier/video operator in a gay adult theater (No Experience, will train). Apply in person 10am to 5pm at Tearoom Theater 145 Eddy St. (between Mason and Taylor Sts) San Francisco.
E05

DENTAL RDA:
Ex'd, reliable, w/coronal pol Union Sqr Wed & poss Tues. Fax resume with cover ltr 986-3299
E04

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E07

LEGAL NOTICES

STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.540114
In the Matter of the Application of Ronald Carl Hensen, Sr. for change of Name. The application of Ronald Carl Hensen, Sr. for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Ronald Carl Hensen, Sr. has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Dixie Mae Hensen. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 14th day of March at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JAN. 24, 31, FEB 7, 14, 2002

STATEMENT FILE NO.253474
The following person(s) are doing business as: Dolls For The Soul.TM. 73 Waller Street, San Francisco, Ca. 94114. This business is conducted by an individual, signed Nina Reimer. The registrant(s) commenced to transact business under the above listed fictitious business name or names on December 01, 2001. The statement was filed with the City and County of San Francisco, Ca. on 12/10/2001.
JAN 3, 10, 17, 24, 2002

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CAILIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO FILE NO.540102
In the Matter of the Application of Paul James Ramey for change of Name. The application of Paul James Ramey, for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that Paul James Ramey has filed an application proposing that his/her name be changed to Ramzi James al-Hassan Ramey. Now therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 11th day of March at 9:00am., of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted.
JAN. 10, 17, 24, 31, 2002

ROOMMATES

East Bay House (Room for Rent) 2 full bath-full kitchen- W/D-D/W 5min to Bart- Avail Feb 1, 2001 $800/Mo+1/2 Utils or $1,150/Mo Inc. Utils, Food & Maid Paul 415.987.8779 or 415.752.4076
E04

Top-floor Hayward apt., 925 sq ft pvt. bed/bath, parking, pool, AC, laundry, elevator, easy location. $650 + util. Share w/GM34, musician. Richard • (510) 582-2026.
E04

Room for rent in Newark/Fremont Hot tub, cable, utils. incl $550mo Call John @ 510•795•0558
E04

OAKLAND HILLS-
Furnished room for rent in furnished 3/2 house, great view from top of hill, pets okay, $700+1/3 utils. Ben - 510-531-4626.
E04

TWIN PEAKS APT WITH VIEW
GM seeks same to share 2br 2ba apt. W/d fireplace balcony 800mo 800dep. Avail now Brent 821 7418
E04

East Bay,(Pleasant Hill) excellent location five level clean quiet br private bath enclosed garage 800.00 incl 1/2 utils in search of good roommate open male female Mike 925 947 5550
E04

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E04

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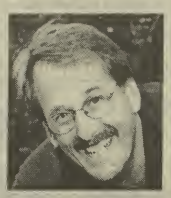

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A public statement from Michael Petrelis of the AIDS Accountability Project and David Pasquarelli of ACT UP San Francisco

January 22, 2002 • Day 55 • From the San Francisco County Jail

The following is an open letter to the community from imprisoned HIV-positive activists Michael Petrelis and David Pasquarelli. They are being held on an outrageous $1.1 million bail.

On January 23, 2002, in San Francisco Superior Court, the preliminary hearing resumes regarding the dozens of felony and misdemeanor counts of criminal threats, stalking, harassment and conspiracy leveled against us. These untrue accusations are the result of a phone, fax and email zap we allegedly participated in to bring attention to AIDS corruption and to resist recent calls by health officials to quarantine AIDS patients.

In anticipation of the conclusion of this hearing, we feel it is important for us to address several key issues surrounding our case and relating to problems plaguing America's $100 Billion AIDS industry.

TERENCE HALLINAN'S TRUMPED UP CHARGES CAN'T HIDE RAMPANT AIDS CORRUPTION

Once again, we categorically deny accusations that we issued threats or engaged in terrorist activities. We reject the untrue allegations that either of us ever threatened physical injury to any of our accusers or their families.

Indeed, we assert that San Francisco District Attorney Terence Hallinan is biased against us. He is using his position as a public figure and the power of his office to demonize us and illegally silence our right to free speech. Speech highly critical of this City's bloated AIDS industry. Speech that is resulting in national attention focused on rampant AIDS corruption in our City. Speech that has literally places millions of taxpayers' dollars for AIDS funding under intense public scrutiny.

OF UTMOST CONCERN TO US: SAN FRANCISCO'S HIV AND AIDS STATISTICS DON'T ADD UP!

We have been on the front lines of critically analyzing local and national HIV, AIDS and sexually transmitted disease (STD) statistics in order to validate the necessity of alarming calls for more federal funding directed to San Francisco. What we have uncovered is that no matter how you slice it, HIV, AIDS and STD numbers in the City don't add up.

Health officials continually terrify the gay community and the public at large with alarming estimates and projections that HIV and STDs are skyrocketing. Yet, these officials simultaneously admit when questioned, that they don't keep track of the total number of tests their clinics administer. Furthermore, they reluctantly acknowledge they are spending substantially more money to target gay men with more tests – despite their refusal to track precisely how many tests are performed.

By radically increasing the number of STD tests performed on gay men and deliberately covering up the total number of tests administered annually, local health officials are violating their duty by deceiving the public and needlessly alarming us. The San Francisco Department of Public Health (DPH) is guilty of statistical sleight of hand by demonizing gay men in a continuing campaign that depicts us as diseased and dangerous.

Despite years of questions and skepticism about the City's HIV, AIDS and STD statistics, the San Francisco Chronicle refuses to mention lingering doubts or quote community activists who criticize the numbers. Rather than investigate the legitimacy of statistics from DPH and the University of California at San Francisco (UCSF), the Chronicle merely regurgitates the numbers, no matter how convoluted the method used to concoct them, then broadcasts anti-gay alarmist news stories to the public and other global media outlets.

This kind of incessant government funded public propaganda undermines the gay community's self-esteem and well-being, damages our health, and leads to unfounded public fear of homosexuals, increased harassment and anti-gay violence.

As if to make up for failing to challenge DPH/UCSF's numbers game, a recent issue of The Chronicle featured a lengthy excerpt from a recent Rolling Stone article exposing the unreliability and deep confusion over projections alleging an HIV pandemic in South Africa. When will our City's dominant daily newspaper wake up to the fact there is growing concern and uncertainty over official estimates and projections of San Francisco's HIV and STD rates?

CONFLICTS OF INTEREST AND AIDS CORRUPTION ARE OUT OF CONTROL

Five years ago, after the late AIDS activist Steve Michael of ACT UP DC contacted us about growing problems and profiteering from the AIDS Rides on the East Coast, we encouraged The Chronicle to examine concerns related to Dan Pallotta's marketing company that produces these bicycle marathons. The paper continually ignored our pleas to report on AIDS Ride corruption with an investigative and skeptical eye. It wasn't until two weeks ago that The Chronicle finally featured a front page critical story about the embarrassing lawsuits Pallotta filed in Los Angeles County to maintain his monopoly over the bicycle fundraisers and to stop other groups from staging them. This is the most recent example of egregious greed and is just the tip of the iceberg of AIDS profiteering and corruption.

In San Francisco, executive directors and paid staff of local AIDS groups manipulate and control the federally funded community HIV Prevention Planning Council. This Council, convened by the Centers for Disease Control (CDC), was originally intended to provide AIDS patients and community activists input over the appropriation of federal AIDS funding. Sadly, with the take over of this Community Council by well-financed AIDS industry careerists, accountability has flown out the window. As with the Ryan White CARE Act Council, conflicts of interest rule supreme as AIDS leaders get paid to divert more taxpayer funds into their own ineffective organizations and their own pockets.

Similarly, the San Francisco Department of Public Health's AIDS Office, which is supposed to provide oversight and fiscal accountability to these councils and the City's non-profit HIV agencies, is riddled with former employees of these agencies, as well as those presently employed by UCSF. This revolving door of employment at the AIDS Office greatly hinders effective, honest fiscal accountability. With more than 100 employees at the AIDS Office, 50 members on the HIV Prevention Planning Council and another 50 on the Ryan White CARE Council (all appointed by the Mayor), one wonders exactly what the Mayor's AIDS Czar gets paid to do all day.

Meanwhile, the world of AIDS, Inc. was rocked recently by federal audits of HIV prevention groups by Heath and Human Services Inspector General Janet Rehnquist. CDC funded HIV prevention agencies across the country are nervous about auditors scrutinizing their books and conducting performance evaluations. These audits were initiated after we brought a formal complaint to Congress and took out a full-page ad in a Capital Hill newspaper, demanding to know how HIV groups spend federal grants.

Finally, the federal government noticed the greed grab called the AIDS gravy train and is taking action. For example, an FBI investigation into a North Carolina AIDS agency uncovered serious abuses of federal funds. Investigators returned 10 federal indictments against the agency's leaders, according to the Associated Press Wire Service. Activists expect more indictments to be handed down soon.

Still, even though profits from AIDS Walks and other fund-raising events are in serious decline and states are cutting back public funds for AIDS, it is services, not directors' salaries, that have been cut. If the people running AIDS organizations are so concerned about drops in revenue and the impact these decreases will have on AIDS patients, why don't they voluntarily reduce their high salaries – like the $250,000 annual salary of San Francisco AIDS Foundation Executive Director Pat Christen?

DON'T LET THE D.A. COVER UP AIDS CORRUPTION WITH PROSECUTORIAL MISCONDUCT

In October 2000, we participated in a non-violent protest with a dozen other demonstrators at the headquarters of the San Francisco AIDS Foundation (SFAF) to publicly display our strong objections to an obscene and offensive ad campaign the non-profit placed in gay newspapers. Funded with taxpayer dollars, the ads accused gay men of spreading AIDS and not caring about it, by featuring the profane and accusatorial headline, "HIV Infections Double – Who Gives A F**k?" Our point at the protest was simple. Imagine the justifiable uproar if such an outrageous headline targeting African Americans was featured in a publicly funded campaign by a caucasian run organization.

In April 2001, five months after this nonviolent protest, the District Attorney's Office issued warrants for our arrest. They arrested us, along with two other demonstrators, on charges of disturbing the peace, unlawful assembly and participating in a riot. We were put through the system after voluntarily turning ourselves into the police.

Then, in September 2001, Hallinan's office brought more charges against us for the same protest. This time, prosecutors alleged, in addition to the other counts, we had disrupted the functioning of a business. Thanks to the wisdom and fairness of a San Francisco Superior Court Judge, these dubious additional charges Hallinan's office attempted to pile on, were denied.

While Hallinan's office waged war on us in 2001, he conspicuously turned a blind eye to prosecuting other similar demonstrators who were more politically well-connected. For example, at the end of May 2001, more than 200 supporters of Willie Brown protested what they deemed were racist stories attacking the mayor. Their target? The San Francisco Chronicle. Among the angry demonstrators was SFAF federal lobbyist Ernest Hopkins, who staged a noisy picket and rally using bullhorns. These protesters entered The Chronicle's building, shouted at employees, and hurled stacks of newspapers and protest signs all over the lobby.

- Number of arrests by Hallinan: *Zero.*
- Number of restraining orders sought by The Chonicle: *Zilch.*
- Public accusations of terrorism: *Zip.*

This example and numerous others like it point to an unethical political and legal double standard that rules the San Francisco District Attorney's office. We must also point out that the investigating San Francisco police officer who over-charged our case with serious felonies that prohibit any plea bargaining, is Lt. Lea Militello. This officer made quite a name for herself in the early 1990's when she tried to infiltrate and monitor ACTUP and Queer Nation. Activists argued at the time that Militello had one preeminent agenda – persecute protesters and deprive them of their rights to freely protest government policies.

It is our contention that Militello, a lesbian, is not an impartial investigator. She has a history of animosity against ACTUP and an axe to grind against us, since we are high profile direct action activists. We charge that Militello's motives are suspect, her investigation tainted by bias, and her evidence distorted and highly questionable.

FREE PETRELIS AND PASQUARELLI NOW!

We express our deep gratitude to the hundreds of friends, family members and supporters concerned about our health, well-being and civil liberties who have come to our aid in this time of need. We thank you for your love and support. Since January 26 is Michael's 43rd birthday, we would welcome birthday cards to cheer him up.

While being unjustly imprisoned on a $1.1 million bail for advocating truth and an end to AIDS corruption has been stressful and scary, we must applaud the enlightened approach that San Francisco Sheriff Michael Hennessey has implemented in the County Jail. These include educational programs, vegetarian meals, a dental clinic, the Forensic AIDS Project and comprehensive discharge planning to assist inmates.

However, despite these advantages, we miss our freedom and sincerely hope we will be released soon. A bail fund called The Direct Action Civil Liberties Fund has been established to help us regain our freedom. We ask that you donate to the bail fund so we can get back to our lives and work on the outside to prove our innocence. We remain hopeful that $1.1 million can be raised if supporters contribute what they can to the Fund. No donation is too small or large.

Please make a contribution today and ask your friends and family members to do the same. You can find The Direct Action Civil Liberties Fund website at **www.daclf.org**, where you can donate by using a credit or debit card. Or, send a check payable to "DACLF" to the address listed below.

Now, more than ever, is the time to support our right to free speech. Please do not allow our civil liberties and those of all protesters to be shredded in San Francisco – America's most progressive and tolerant city.

ACT UP San Francisco
1884 Market Street
San Francisco, CA 94102
Phone: (415) 864-6686
Fax: (415) 864-6687
Web: www.actupsf.com
E-mail: actupsf@hotmail.com

Letters and cards of support can be mailed to:

Michael Petrelis
Inmate No. 2018960
San Francisco County Jail
425 7th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

David Pasquarelli
Inmate No. 2018973
San Francisco County Jail
425 7th Street
San Francisco, CA 94103

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It's a wide, wide world
Hepburn romances in the Castro's Widescreen series.
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BAY AREA REPORTER

ARTS & ENTERTAINMENT

Vol. 32 • No. 4 • 24 January 2002

Family business

Lynn Redgrave sheds light on her gay father and her famous clan

by Richard Dodds

Lynn Redgrave has made no secret of the fact that she was far from being her father's pet. In fact, Sir Michael Redgrave seemed to her almost pathologically distant from this youngest child, displaying noticeably more attention to siblings Vanessa and Corin. It was only when Lynn, as a young adult, learned that her noted actor-father was gay that she began to see him as a human being.

Her first reaction was surprise at herself for failing to catch the clues. "I knew and adored the two main relationships of his life, and they adored me, but I didn't realize what they were to my father," said the 58-year-old actress.

"My second reaction was one of — and don't take this the wrong way — it was a type of compassion. Not compassion that he was gay, but compassion that he had to publicly live a lie, and even live a lie to his children."

Not that they ever talked about it. "You couldn't broach it with him," the actress said. "I practically couldn't even broach breakfast with him."

Redgrave has written a play about a married man of the theater who is gay and whose actress-wife won't leave a sex-light marriage and has found an outlet in a passionate affair with another man. These are two of the real-life parallels that tie Redgrave's parents to characters and situations in *The Mandrake Root*.

Lynn Redgrave's interest in seeing a second production of her play has brought her to San Jose Rep, where — with Redgrave herself as star — *The Mandrake Root* will begin performances on Jan. 26. At its first production at the Long Wharf Theatre in New Haven last year, the press quickly picked up on those family/play connections. But Redgrave

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A chat with Benjamin Bratt

Playing Piñero

by David Lamble

I call you guys by your name. Why don't you call me by mine? My name ain't Cupcakes, it's Julio." — from *Short Eyes* by Miguel Piñero

Before he accepted the role of Latino bad-boy poet-playwright-actor Miguel Piñero, it would have been rather hard to construct a sentence containing the names of both Piñero and actor Benjamin Bratt. Acclaimed in his late twenties for the play *Short Eyes*, a riveting rant about life, love and death involving a racially mixed group of prisoners in the New York City House of Detention — and drawn from Piñero's own time in Sing Sing — Piñero would write well, play hard, and be dead by age 40, when his liver gave out.

Bratt, mostly known as a TV cop (Detective Reynaldo Curtis on NBC's *Law & Order*) and as the pretty face the cameras cut to when Julia Roberts accepted her latest Oscar, was nobody's first choice to play the Puerto Rico-born Piñero. The script for *Piñero*, by Cuba-born director Leon Ichaso, had passed through the hands of heavyweights John Leguizamo (who wound up as co-executive producer), Marc Anthony, Benicio Del Toro, and, of course, Johnny Depp. About Bratt, everybody sniffed, "But he's so clean," so West Coast, so not in the life. Even Bratt thought his lean-cuisine

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Benjamin Bratt in Leon Ichaso's *Piñero*

Abbot Genser

SECOND OF TWO SECTIONS

OUT THERE

by Roberto Friedman and Donny Dollface

And here we thought they were used to handling big packages: Attorneys for shipping company United Parcel Service have informed the London-based manufacturer of **Billy Dolls** that a spiffy new outfit for the doll, a brown deliveryman uniform with a yellow BPS (Billy's Parcel Service) logo on the shirt, violates the UPS trademark.

Like any active queer, Billy has an ever-evolving wardrobe of outfits and accessories (just like **Barbie**!) that have included military and police uniforms, cowboy outfits and leather biker gear. But UPS lawyers are in a lather about the anatomically correct guy — they say he is "grotesquely so." Hey, "in the eye of the beholder," UPS! We would never say something so mean about one of your cute deliverymen, in their darling little shorts and boots.

UPS spokesman **Norman Black** told AP last week that Billy's makers conceded the violation and have stopped producing the deliveryman versions of the dolls, which retailed for $45.95. Black said only a San-Francisco based Internet retailer did not respond to UPS requests that the dolls and uniforms be returned for destruction. Their inventory quickly sold out.

Now Billy has a UPS uniform to go with his Raymond Dragon outfit.

Horny and pious

So many little things that Out There once took for granted, like opening our mail, visiting a high-rise building, or eating a pretzel, we no longer do in quite the same way as we did back in the 20th century. In fact, we'll never enjoy a salty snack again without thinking how close we came to having a **President Cheney** in name as well as fact. And there's a reason we don't live in Wyoming.

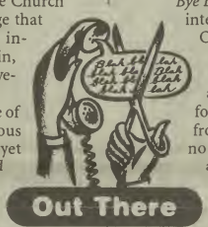
There's also a reason we're not heavily into organized religion; nevertheless, we do wind up on some very strange *religioso* mailing lists. *Why just last week, we* opened up a press kit only to find it had been sent by an Internet hookup site called **CatholicSingles**.com! Their come-on came complete with a cocktail napkin scribbled over with faux pick-up lines ("Hey Gorgeous, Don't forget to call me!") by horny Catholic swingers who don't forget to be clods ("Don't call me during a football game, ok?")

Ever the investigative reporters, we e-mailed back a gentle request for info on any same-sex dating chatrooms or resources on the site. Within the hour we received the following reply: "no, sorry about that. as a Catholic community we adhere to the guidelines set by the Church and don't encourage that kind of romantic involvement. again, sorry for the inconvenience"

We'd call the tone of that response a curious mixture of polite yet offensive. And something in us has to marvel at the sender's **e.e. cummings**esque style of all lower-case spelling — except of course for the all-powerful, upper-case Church! If these Catholic Singles are so proud of their dating services, why won't they sign their own correspondence?

Hat trick

Turns out OT erred when we conjectured that the Hat Lady Herself, **Jan Wahl**, might be washing her hair during the **Ann-Margret** blow-out coming to the Castro on Feb. 22. In fact, Wahl will be introducing A-M's girlhood pal **Ann Frasier** and asking her a few questions about what it was like being a cheerleader with A-M in high school, such as: Did she push her boobs together to produce cleavage, like they do in *Bye Bye Birdie?* An area of interest well outside of OT's expertise.



Chatty hatty Wahl took the time to pass along a tip about four of her fave flicks from last year that got no media attention (is anybody awake at the *Chronicle?*) Now they're out on video, and they're all worth checking out: *Blow Dry; Songcatcher:* **Janet McTeer** as a musicologist recording folk music in '20s Appalachia encounters sexism and — *sacre bleu!* — a gay couple; *Greenfingers;* and *Big Eden.* Wahl really loves movies made with a personal vision, and we know she's not just talking through her hat.

Jeremy Northam plays gay British matinee idol Ivor Novello.

Mark Tuite

His finest hour

Thanks to filmmaster **Robert Altman**'s hit movie *Gosford Park*, early-20th century actor **Ivor Novello** is suddenly very hot right now, perhaps in no small part because he's played by ace actor **Jeremy Northam** in the film.

Now, from *The Gay Book of Days*, by **Martin Greif**, we learn more about Novello's true place in queer history: "Everyone knew that the dashing British matinee idol and operetta king was gay," writes Greif, "except the ten million women who adored him, bought his Gramophone records, tore his clothes at the stage door, and believed the baloney about his romance with young [actress] **Gladys Cooper** cooked up by a press agent to mask the fact that... [he] really preferred to take it up the bum. For the astonishing story of Ivor Novello's one-night stand with [British PM] **Winston Churchill** — yes, Winston Churchill," we had to turn to another page.

There we found: "In his wonderfully entertaining and informative biography of [author] **W. Somerset Maugham**, **Ted Morgan** tells how Maugham once asked Churchill whether it was true, as the statesman's mother had claimed, that he had had affairs with other men in his youth. 'Not true!' Churchill replied. 'But I once went to bed with a man to see what it was like.' The man turned out to be musical-comedy star Ivor Novello. 'And what was it like?' Maugham asked. 'Musical,' Churchill replied."

To OT: Boob!

In our excitement over palindromes (same thing back-to-front) last week, we misattributed the gems we shared. They were in fact the inventions of *The Palindromist Magazine* editor **Mark Saltveit**, from his datebook/calendar *A Man, A Plan 2002.*

Gracious about the mistake, the splendid Mr. S even greeted us with our very own palindrome: "Yo, *Bay Area Reporter*, fret! Rope Rae-Ray (a boy.)" He also served up a batch of never-before-published palindromes on gay themes, starting with "Ebullient Neil, lube!"

"Dale solicits Al — erotic, illicit or elastic, I lose lad."

"Rim essay: reify a gay, fiery ass, Emir."

"Ted: a cool loo cadet."

"Ron, I'm a minor!"

"He tied. I [snide, bad]: 'Ah, butyl. No fist!' Nape (tan) — it's boffo, erotic. I tore off obstinate pants! If only tub had a bed inside it, eh?"

Also, a 'drome for rapper **Eminem**, who spent a night in jail in 2000 after a brawl: "Men, I'm Eminem!" One for public eyesores **Robert Noel** and **Marjorie Knoller**: "Dog sex, even if fine, vexes God." And a boy's own palindrome: "On Roberto, sot reborn! O!" Info at www.realchange.org/pal for *A Man, A Plan 2002.*

Famous last words

Editrix **Tina Brown** on the morale at just-folded *Talk* magazine: "We have fought a really great fight here. That has been a thrilling experience for **Ron** [**Galotti**, publisher] and I." How can Queen Tina not know that the proper pronoun for the object of a preposition is me? Oh well, as she told *The New York Times*, "I have been swimming in a howling sea of *schadenfreude.*"

Andy Richter *Controls the Universe* executive producer **Victor Fresco** on the difference between Richter and the alien sitcom puppet **Alf**, in the Toronto *Sun:* "Andy doesn't have a guy with a hand up his butt."

Actor **Denis Leary** as a macho Irish cop in his ABC sitcom *The Job*, after experiencing some female trouble: "Maybe it'd be easier if I were into guys!" Female coworker: "Not for them!" ▼

THEATRE

Not Cowardly enough

Theatre Rhino's 'Design for Living'

by Richard Dodds

Noel Coward's *Design for Living* really was a radical play for its day, cajoling 1933 Broadway audiences to loosen up their notion of "normal." So it's not surprising to find contemporary directors eager to freshen up its audacity for today's audiences. But sometimes a play can seem most daring when seen in relationship to the times in which it was first offered.

The estimable director Joe Mantello recently came a cropper with a goosed-up world-weary Broadway revival, and now John Fisher, famous locally for tweaking classic stories, has created an odd variation for Theatre Rhino that does Coward no favors.

Of course, we cannot sanely expect to encounter again the haute sophistication that Lynn Fontanne, Alfred Lunt, and Coward originally brought to these characters who long to be a threesome. But does turning the men into suburban yahoos whom you could easily imagine downing a few brewskis make the play more real for contemporary audiences? If anything, it strips the very Cowardness from Coward. What's left quickly goes flat.

The "depravity" that Coward could sneak in just under radar, and made all the more titillating for its stealth, is slathered on in an appended opening song that features the performers in a bacchanalia of kinks. The play simply isn't built for this kind of in-your-face sexuality.

Jayson Matthews and Doug Holsclaw on the *Design for Living* set.

Steve Savage

Jenny Lord, as the happily bohemian Gilda, does the best at finding a character who can live in both Coward's and Fisher's worlds. But Jayson Matthews and Will Springhorn Jr. are out of their element as Gilda's bon vivant suitors, and the rest of the cast ranges from tolerable to not.

Fisher has punctuated the changing scenes with Coward songs performed by the cast, most of whom are clearly not vocalists. The pre-recorded musical accompaniment has the tinny synthesized sound of one of those electric keyboards that can provide its own steady drum beat. Very un-Coward indeed. ▼

***Design for Living* will run at Theatre Rhino through Feb. 16. Tickets are $15-$22. Call 861-5079.**

That's ridiculous

'The Mystery of Irma Vep' at NCTC

by Richard Dodds

When he died in 1987, an early victim of AIDS, Charles Ludlam had created more than two dozen comedies for his Ridiculous Theatrical Company. The most enduring, surely, is *The Mystery of Irma Vep*.

Ludlam's passion was referencing vintage film and stage genres, both in affection and in sport. If you start tallying the stylistic origins of *Irma Vep*, you may give up after finding either ample quotes from or merely hints of *Rebecca, Wuthering Heights, Gaslight, The Mummy's Curse, The Wolfman, Nosferatu,* and even *The Rubaiyat of Omar Khayyam*.

But Ludlam provided a topper to these parodies by having eight male and female characters played in quick-change fashion by just two actors. At New Conservatory Theatre Center, those two actors are Lee Corbett and Patrick Dukeman, who, with some backstage help and clever costume designs by Van Hedwall, deftly affect these character changes.

Of course, it's fun to watch a performer leave the stage as the demure lady of the house and return in a heartbeat as a one-legged, drooling stableman. But Ludlam is also pointing up the inherent artifice of theater by having the characters reluctantly acknowledge the physical impossibility of having face-to-face interactions with their other personalities. It's almost as if the play is populated with just two characters suffering from extreme multiple-personality disorder.

Lee Corbett and Patrick Dukeman in *The Mystery of Irma Vep*

Lois Tema

Director Arturo Catricala has effectively staged these shenanigans on Rob Vogt's tricked-out set. But while both his performers robustly handle the physical requirements of the script, only one truly has the comic chops to deliver on the Ridiculous.

Patrick Dukeman seems to be a natural clown, knowing when to underplay and when to overplay for maximum humor. Lee Corbett is less able to find these nuances. While his variation on an Agnes Moorehead-type housekeeper has its moments, he pushes too hard at a manufactured stuffy Englishness for the role of Lord Edgar.

But this *Irma Vep* still offers up a happy diversion, illuminating again a theatrical style that Ludlam himself called a synthesis of "wit, parody, vaudeville farce, melodrama, and satire, giving reckless immediacy to classical stagecraft." ▼

***The Mystery of Irma Vep* will run at the New Conservatory Theatre Center through Feb. 23. Tickets are $18-$28. Call 861-8972.**

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Married but curious

Husbands stray in Hal Corley's 'Legion'

by Richard Dodds

Hal Corley has written a play about men whose sexual urges are homosexual but whose social aspirations are totally heterosexual. And so these men get married, move to suburbia, have backyard barbecues, and fulfill their sexual needs without having to claim any membership in "the gay community."

"One of my characters is deeply gay-community phobic, which I don't think is written about enough," said Corley, whose play *Legion* begins performances this week at New Conservatory Theatre Center. "To put my name on this play means I have to own the fact that I have been a part of this milieu."

Corley, 50, is now pretty much out as a gay married man, though the three men whose stories he tracks in *Legion* are far from that position as the play begins. "These men don't have the vocabulary to speak about these issues, and so they can end up saying some very un-politically correct things. They don't speak gay-speak, even when they're being seductive with each other."

This is the world premiere for *Legion*, a play that Corley feels explores this topic from a fresh point of view. "When the story has been told before, and films *that jump to mind are Making Love* and *Second Skin*, the story is tilted toward the wife. She gets the biggest revelation."

Not so in *Legion*, in which all the characters are male and the wives are kept offstage. The play follows the 20-year journeys of three of these characters, starting at a Super Bowl party in the '80s, when two of the men fall into an unexpected clench.

Corley has been married for 28 years and is the father of an 11-year-old son. Though he has been writing plays for nearly 25 years, he mostly makes his living as a staff writer for soap operas. This is his first play with a gay topic, but he has shared in several Emmys and GLAAD awards for episodes of *All My Children* that dealt with various forms of homophobia.

Backstage

Professionally speaking, Corley said he is more nervous about being seen as just a playwright than for any lifestyle he is revealing in *Legion*. "They are more threatened by the idea that I would be doing other writing than they would be by the subject of that writing," he said, speaking of the soap opera bosses. "They sort of want you to give your life over to the genre."

As for his wife, Corley said she supports the play and will at some point fly out to see the New Conservatory production. "She thinks it's an important story to tell," said Corley, who will be in town for the previews and opening.

He's most worried about the reaction of gay theatergoers who will make up most of the play's audiences at New Conservatory. "There are a lot of people who expect to see their own lives on stage, and I don't think we'll be doing that," Corley said. "What I want to say is that the tent is big, whether anyone likes it or not."

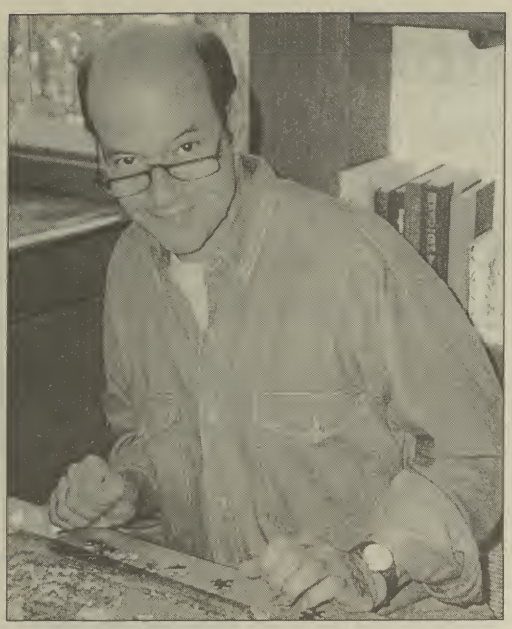
Legion will run through April 6. Call 861-8972 for ticket information.

Mother's day

There will be a change in mothers at ACT this spring, but not a change in the star. Olympia Dukakis was originally set to the play the title role in Gorky's *The Mother*. Instead, she will play the larger-than-life mother of a gay son in Michel Tremplay's *The Pleasure of Seeing Her Again*.

It is quite arguably a change for the better, in that Tremplay is not only considered one of the best gay Canadian playwrights, he's often at the top of the list of all Canadian playwrights. He's seldom produced in the United States, so that's another reason to look forward to the May production.

Marco Barricelli, a member of ACT's resident company who has recently been shuttling between hyper-straight and gay roles, will play the gay son. In this admittedly autobiographical play, the playwright-son gets to meet his mother again at five different times during his early life. Carey Perloff, who has twice directed Dukakis in *Hecuba*, will be staging *Pleasure*.



Playwright Hal Corley puzzles out the world of married men.

Lois Tema

The All Night Strut! pays tribute to the music of the '30s and '40s.

Short scenes

• Len Cariou, the original Sweeney Todd and a star of the current *Copenhagen*, will have a lunchtime conversation with *Bay Guardian* theater critic Brad Rosenstein at the Performing Arts Library and Museum on Feb. 1 at 12:15 p.m. Tickets are $10, and reservations are recommended. Call 255-4800.

• It doesn't open until August at the Eureka Theatre, but an early press release makes *Carved in Stone* at least sound intriguing. Jeffrey Hartgraves' new play brings together P.A. Cooley as Truman Capote, Leon Acord as Quentin Crisp, Matt Weimer as Oscar Wilde, and Hartgraves as Tennessee Williams. On top of all that, John Fisher is the director.

• Veteran performer Dean Goodman is again starring in *Visiting Mr. Green*, this time at Playhouse West in Walnut Creek. Goodman plays a crotchety Jewish widower who becomes a reluctant friend to a young gay man (Zach Hummell) in Jeff Baron's off-Broadway play. The run begins Feb. 1. Call (925) 942-0300.

• New Conservatory continues its In Concert series with *The All Night Strut!*, a revue that pays tribute to the music of the 1930s and '40s. Ralph William Boone, Katie Dederain, Tim Johnson, and Kristen Price will be singing "Chattanooga Choo-Choo" and the like starting this week. Call 861-8972.

• *Kiss of the Spider Woman* — the play, not the musical — opens Jan. 31 at the Phoenix Theatre in downtown San Francisco. Patrick Mouton, David Cavallero, and Gwendolyn Lindsey make up the cast of the Bare Bones Theatre production. Call 642-1257.

• David Hare's *The Blue Room*, perhaps best remembered for Nicole Kidman's onstage nude scenes, will have its West Coast premiere Feb. 6 at Theatre on San Pedro Square in San Jose. A contemporary adaptation of Schnitzler's *La Ronde*, it offers 10 interlocking scenes of erotic adventures to be played out by Stephanie Gularte and Jonathan Rhys Williams. Call (408) 283-0200. ▼

Richard Dodds can be reached at BARstage@aol.com.

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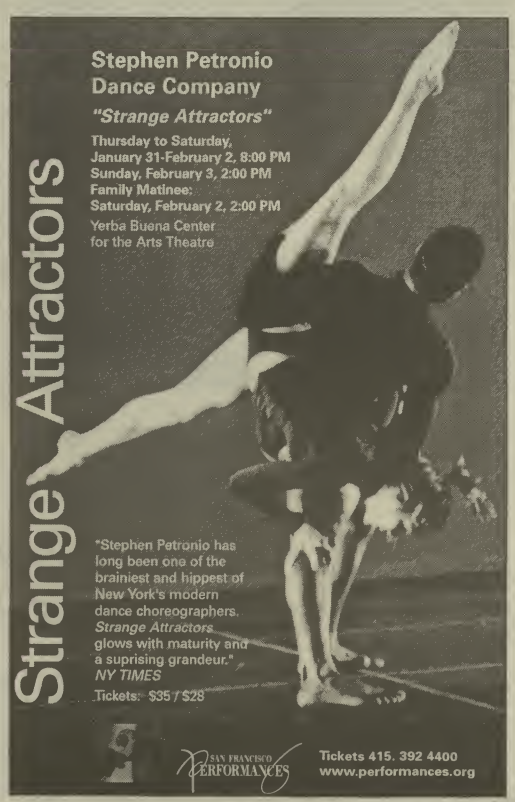


ART

Greatest hits, local luminaries

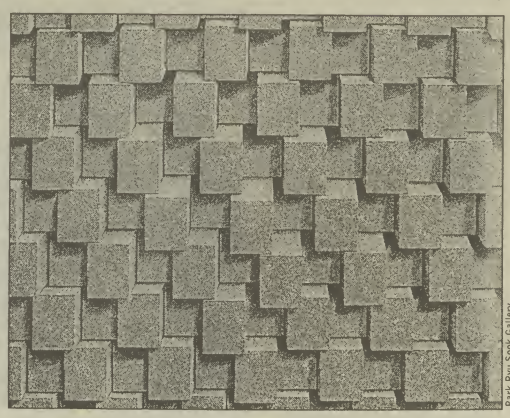
What's up at Bay Area galleries in January

by Will Shank

If you missed the Big Art Event of the year in San Francisco, last weekend's International Art Exposition at Fort Mason, you can still take in some choice offerings at local galleries.

Postponed from last fall, the Expo itself was a bit overwhelming, with its double-whammy of two enormous exhibition halls on San Francisco Bay, both chock-a-block with fine art from all over the world. Well, some was finer than others. Local art luminaries like Hunk Anderson and his daughter Putter, and erstwhile octogenarian collector Rene di Rosa, were spotted perusing the goods, which were presented by such blue-chip galleries as Manhattan's Marlborough and Salander-O'Reilly.

It is always difficult for a gallery to pull together a greatest-hits type of installation in a limited space, but for the eager art enthusiast, visual rewards were offered in spades for those with the patience required to separate the wheat from the chaff. Among the pleasures and surprises were works by a number of Korean artists at the Park Ryu Sook Gallery, including a series of works by Kim Kang-Yong resembling Navajo sand paintings which represent, in *trompe-l'oeile* illusionism, brick walls with some of their masonry askew. Another series, by Lee Jin-Yong, comprises assemblages of watches, or musical instruments, or precision tools encased in resin, with linear images circumscribing their outlines. They reminded me of Jill Weinstock's creepy nightgowns drowned in transparent rubber, not far away at San Francisco's own Catharine Clark's booth.



Park Ryu Sook Gallery

"Reality + Image 0658" (mixed media, sand) by Kim Kang-Yong

A wall installation of tiny plastic cylinders by Todd Brandt at San Antonio's Finesilver Gallery was right on the mark, and across the aisle, Paule Anglim presented an echo of his work in the diagonally-cut rubber tubes of Gay Outlaw. An embarrassment of riches was otherwise present in her booth, representing her stable of artists from Bruce Conner to Deborah Butterfield to Dean Smith, whose obsessively fine pen-and-ink drawings will be featured in a local solo show at Anglim this spring.

The Elins/Eagles-Smith

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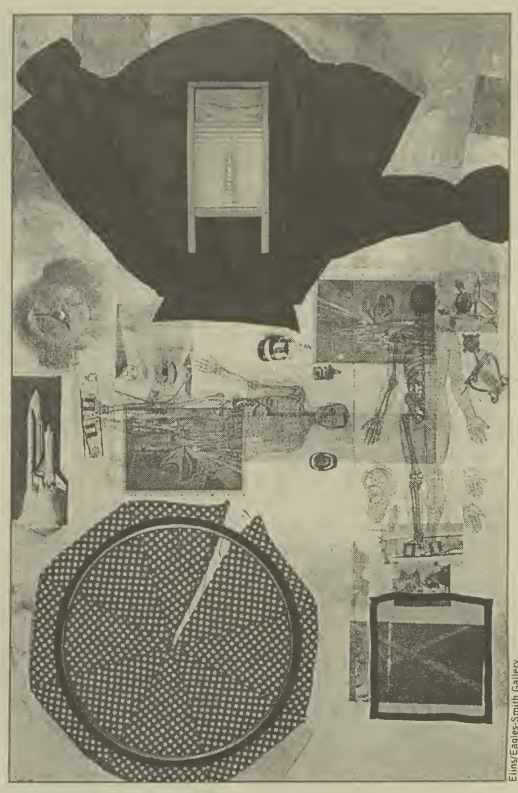

Elins/Eagles-Smith Gallery

"Schizont Revival" (mixed media) by Robert Rauschenberg

Sebastiao Salgado

"Refugee from Kabul, Afghanistan" (1996)

Moving pictures

Salgado's 'Migrations' at Berkeley Art Museum

by Michael McDonagh

Should art disturb? Or should it be as cozy as your favorite chair? After the horrific events of 9/11, we may want it to be a comfort. But shouldn't we also look facts in the face, and wake up and snap into compassionate action when we can? Sebastião Salgado's photographs have been asking these basic but far from simple questions for over 30 years, and his show *Migrations* poses them in the most graphic terms. Its more than 300 pictures document the plight of Third World peoples on six continents who are either migrants or refugees, but in both cases clearly dispossessed. They're Franz Fanon's "wretched of the earth," and Salgado's black-and-white photos of them are startling, even shocking, and a must-see. That's because we in oh-so-fortunate, self-absorbed America need to see how the other half lives, and also because, as composer Philip Glass once remarked, "Most of the world does not live the way we do." Salgado puts it even more provocatively: "Everything that happens in the world must be shown." And his pictures of things we'd rather not think about, much less see, give his show its considerable power.

The Brazilian-born photographer, who started out as an economist, may have had his social consciousness raised by his studies in this field, and by his subsequent work for the International Coffee Organization. But that's an intellectual issue, and *Migrations* is not a head trip but a visceral and heart one. How could it be

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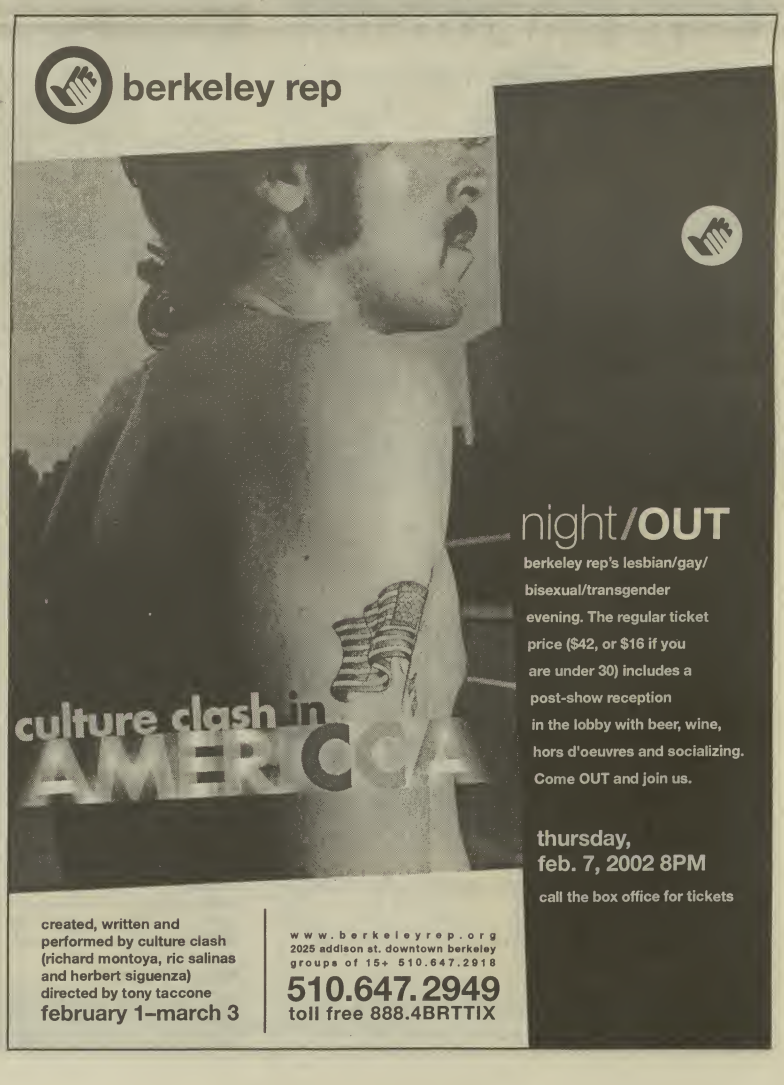


Department of Corrections

The dark drama 'Monster's Ball' explores race and rage

by David Lamble

In *Monster's Ball,* a very dark drama about pain and suppressed rage, Hank (Billy Bob Thornton), an ex-prison guard, decides to put his elderly father Buck (Peter Boyle) into a nursing home. The admitting matron flashes a motherly smile and purrs, "You must love him very much."

"No," says Hank, "I don't. But he's my father, so there you go."

A moment so searingly honest that it is almost laugh out loud funny, or so fraught with unendurable sorrow that you feel the characters might not live through the next scene with their sanity intact, is typical of Swiss-born director Marc Forster's exploration of a most unusual love affair between two people who are down on their luck, have been rather bad parents, and can only shrug at the fickle finger of fate that draws them together. Set in rural Georgia (although filmed in New Orleans and the Angola, Louisiana State Prison, lending the death row scenes a unparalleled realism), *Monster's Ball,* opening Friday, is based on a script by Milo Addica and Will Rokos that was almost too good for its own good.

As we first meet Hank, he is a bitter, emotionally withdrawn racist who has inherited the worst traits from Buck, and who is trying to beat these very qualities into his own oddly sensitive offspring, Sonny (handsome Australian Heath Ledger). Hank and Sonny, assigned to oversee the last moments of condemned murderer Lawrence Musgrove (rapper Sean Combs), come to blows on the job after Sonny screws up a death-watch ritual that is dearer than life itself to Hank.

Hank's attempt to beat the shit out of Sonny is interrupted by a black guard who becomes the target of a racist rant. "This is not you, Hank," the guard pleads. "This is me, this is me," screams Hank. Thornton is operating with his throttle wide open, in almost a reprise of his incendiary 1991 debut as the mass-murdering drug thief in *One False Move.*

Hank and Sonny play out their cobra/mongoose version of filial affection the next morning in front of Buck. "You've always hated me, haven't you," shouts Sonny. "Yes, I have," replies Hank, whereupon Sonny shoots himself. Suddenly we're alone with Hank, a man who appears beyond redemption and utterly incapable of love.

Unmerry widow

Down the road, Musgrove's widow Leticia (Halle Berry) starts to freak out, hitting the bottle while lashing out at her obese son, Tyrell (Coronji Calhoun). One night, during a driving rain, Leticia discovers Tyrell has been hit by a car. Desperate to get him to the hospital, she flags down a vehicle driven by Hank. Later, as Leticia becomes intimately involved with this polite but deeply troubled man, she asks him point blank, "Why did you help me?"

The answer to that question may surprise you as much as it surprises Leticia and Hank. Having been really good for nothing else in life, Leticia and Hank develop not only a fiery sexual chemistry but previously unimagined talents for tenderness and intimacy. Berry's anguish is closer to the surface, and thus more likely to be Oscar-blessed.

Billy Bob Thornton, assuming Jack Nicholson's mantle as our best character actor/leading man, amazingly tones down his opening blast-the-paint-off-the-walls tone to move Hank from too-mean-to-live to a kind of saintly forbearance. Blessedly, there is so little method to his acting that he appears not to be acting at all. Thornton seems drawn to stories about absent fathers: his script for *One False Move* (co-written with Tom Epperson) contains one of the '90s' most deeply felt if unexpected father/son reunions. *Monster's Ball* writers Addica and Rokos were so committed to their vision of the story that they turned down the lure of famous stars in order to achieve the miracle of a perfect ensemble of actors working for scale.

Jeanne Louise Buillard

Billy Bob Thornton, Peter Boyle, Heath Ledger in *Monster's Ball*

Perhaps no movie called *Monster's Ball* could fail to have a scene where the plucky heroine walks unknowingly into the lair of the beast, and, while we hold our hearts in our throats, discovers some unbearable truths about the man she is coming to need like her next breath. As much as you'll remember the needy raw sex between Leticia and Hank, the characters' emotional nakedness will linger longer, like the subtropical heat that appears to bellow up out of the earth. ▼

Piñero

◀ *Arts cover*

torso was oddly suited to represent the shorter and heavier Piñero, whose own diet probably corresponded to the title of one of his best short plays, *Midnight Moon at the Greasy Spoon.*

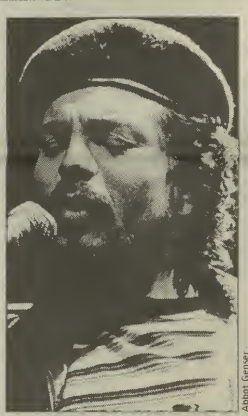
Ironically, Bratt (San Francisco-born and raised) remembers that his first dose of heavy drama was a *Showtime* airing of *Short Eyes.* "I was about 12 or 13 years old... and I think I watched it five or six times, and really, it became a kind of *Scared Straight* video for me. I think it had an amazing impact of terror on me. Its depiction of what prison life is like was so raw and so horrific, in how [the prisoners] mete out their own particular sense of justice towards a suspected child molester."

At one point in the film, Miguel Piñero's very Latina mother (icon Rita Moreno) asks her troubled adult son, "Where is the little boy who used to bring me flowers and write me poems?" To which Bratt as Piñero replies, "You must remember a different childhood from mine."

Bratt says it surprises him how much his own childhood did resemble pieces of Piñero's. "Much like Miguel Piñero, I come from a home that was divided. My parents got divorced when I was 4 years old. My mother was left to fend for herself, and single-handedly, much like Miguel Piñero's mother raised five children on her own. She became active in the American Indian Movement (AIM), this is the late '60s, early '70s, and as a result, we got dragged around the Southwest, the Northwest, and went to different protest functions. That shit became a normal way of life — in hindsight, of course, quite an adventurous childhood, even with the occupation of the [Alcatraz] island. As a kid, you know, it was sort of the ultimate playground."

Pinball wizard

Piñero director/writer Leon Ichaso has constructed the film like a cultural pinball machine, sending the audience on a sometimes dizzying ride back and forth through time. Bratt notes that there were specific, if subtle, attempts to connect the poet with his very eclectic intellectual influences. "He read everyone, from Jean Genet to Kierkegaard to Rimbaud, when he was in prison. But he took a great influence from the great American Beat poets — Burroughs, Ginsberg and Kerouac. He considered himself an artist, and lived life like many great artists, on his own terms, despite the fact that it was the kind of lifestyle that would do him in."



Abbot Genser

Benjamin Bratt: nowhere man

Bratt reminds us that Piñero was, in the words of the Beatles, a kind of nowhere man. "He was ripped from his homeland of Puerto Rico when he was 7 years old, without a country and without a family. He found both on the mean streets of New York — and embraced them, even with all the social taboos that they held — the drug addiction, the prostitution, the petty crime, the incarceration."

Bratt notes there is some controversy and confusion about incidents in Piñero's childhood, including whether he may have been raped by his father at a very young age, leading to an obsession with extremely transgressive sex in his life and in his writing, depicted with an especially devastating vividness in his great work, *Short Eyes.* "There's a scene in the film where he's being molested by an older man, and because it's in black-and-white, and it happens rather quickly, the perception is that it is his father. In actuality, that is one of [his mother's] many boyfriends. It is a fairly well-known fact that he was a victim of sexual abuse, at the hands of some of his mother's suitors.

"That said, his was an incredibly complex and undefinable sexuality. While he was widely known to be a bisexual, he would basically kick your ass if you called him a homosexual. He would not wear that label. That not only has to do with his Latin cultural upbringing, but also the identification politics that exist in a prison system. In *Short Eyes,* a lot of your sexual definition depends on whether you're the giver or the taker. If you're the giver, then you're not gay. If you get fucked in prison, then you're 'stuff,' then you are, in fact, a homosexual.

"He didn't see it that way. Like a lot of sensualists, he's a man who lived to get high, lived to feel good, lived to feel the highs and lows. He followed his muse that way. So whether it was physical intimacy with a man or with a woman, he didn't live by other people's definitions.

"As an artist, he never changed his lifestyle. He stayed with what he was familiar with, the life of the streets. There's a poem he wrote in which he eulogizes himself, which he wanted his best friend to read at his own funeral."

"From Houston to 14th Street/ from Second Avenue to the mighty D/ here the hustlers & suckers meet/ the faggots & freaks will all get high/ on the ashes that have been scattered/ thru the Lower East Side" — from "A Lower East Side Poem" by Miguel Piñero. ▼

***Piñero* opens Friday at the Lumiere.**

FILM

Just whistle

Lauren Bacall's career

by Tavo Amador

Bacall: deep-voiced sex appeal

Lauren Bacall! The name is magical, even if the down-to-earth lady, born Betty Pepske in Manhattan (1924), never liked it. Few actresses ever made so sensational a film debut or have been part of so celebrated a marriage. This spectacular start has limited the public's perception of her. She is, in fact, an actress of considerable range, excelling in movies, the theatre, and television. That success has been hard-earned and deserved, for she is a woman of talent, discipline, and character. One of her favorite films, *How To Marry a Millionaire* (1953), plays the Castro Theatre on Friday, January 25, part of its Wide Wide Screen series.

Bacall studied briefly at New York's American Academy of Dramatic Arts, ushered in theatres, and had bit stage roles, but she found success modeling. Her striking beauty landed her on the cover of *Harper's Bazaar*, a picture seen by director Howard Hawks. Rejecting an offer from Columbia, she signed a personal contract with him, which he eventually sold to Warners. After training her, Hawks cast her opposite Humphrey Bogart in 1944's *To Have and Have Not*; she famously explained that if he wanted anything, he just had to whistle — and told him how to do it: "Just put your lips together and blow." She had presence and a brainy, deep-voiced sex appeal. Critics exhausted their superlatives, comparing her to her idol, Bette Davis, and to Dietrich, Garbo, and Mae West. She married Bogart, who was considerably older.

No performer could have lived up to such a start, and her next film, *Confidential Agent* (1945), with Charles Boyer, revealed her inexperience. The previously adoring critics now lambasted her, as if embarrassed about their earlier praise. But Hawks made her a classic noir temptress opposite Bogart again, in the hypnotic but confusing *The Big Sleep* (1946). She made two more with Bogart, 1947's *Dark Passage* and 1948's *Key Largo*, playing warm and intelligent characters. Then she was a sexy neurotic luring Kirk Douglas away from Doris Day in *Young Man With a Horn*, and a madam comforting Gary Cooper in *Bright Leaf* (both 1950).

Buy-out

Unhappy with Warners, she bought herself out of her contract, signing with Twentieth. Her first there was *Millionaire*, and although billed after Marilyn Monroe and Betty Grable, both of whom are excellent, Bacall walked off with the film. She lived in *A Woman's World* (1954), a silly, all-star melodrama that's a great guilty pleasure. Then she, Richard Widmark, Boyer, and Gloria Grahame got snared by Vincente Minnelli's *The Cobweb* (1955) at MGM, a drama about hospital psychiatrists and a hit. That same year she got stuck in *Blood Alley* with John Wayne, who praised her both personally and professionally. Over at Universal she had a smash with *Written on the Wind* (1956), as Rock Hudson's wife in this classic Douglas Sirk melodrama.

MGM made her a *Designing Woman* (1957), opposite Gregory Peck, a role originally planned for Grace Kelly. As in *Millionaire*, she proved a stylish comedienne. While she filmed it, Bogart died, leaving her with two sons. She had been a devoted wife throughout his long illness and has gone on record praising him as a gentleman, nothing like his tough-guy image.

She gave *The Gift of Love* (1958), a turgid tearjerker about a dying mother, then played an Edwardian governess in the exciting *Flame Over India* (1959). That same year, she moved back to New York and starred on Broadway in George Axelrod's comedy *Goodbye Charlie*, as a dead man reincarnated as a woman. (Debbie Reynolds did the movie.)

In 1961, Bacall married Jason Robards, Jr. They had a son, but were divorced in 1969. She played a psychiatrist giving *Shock Treatment* (1964), and she and Henry Fonda joined Natalie Wood and Tony Curtis for *Sex and the Single Girl* (1965), both disappointing films. But as the cryptic woman hiring Paul Newman's *Harper* (1966) to investigate her husband's disappearance, she dazzled, again stealing the movie. Broadway, however, now offered better opportunities than Hollywood. In 1967, she triumphed in *Cactus Flower* (filmed by Ingrid Bergman), then, in 1970, won a Tony as Margo Channing in *Applause*, the smash musical version of *All About Eve*, which she took to London and filmed for television. She would win another Tony for a musical version of *Woman of the Year*, in Katharine Hepburn's old part.

Big shots

In 1974, Bacall had the biggest role in the all-star *Murder on the Orient Express*, a smash, then reunited with Wayne for *The Shootist* (1976), a touching performance. She authored her bestselling autobiography, *By Myself*, in 1978, and the following year Robert Altman made her an octogenarian in *H.E.A.L.T.H.* She faced *The Fan* (1981), with James Garner, had a dreary *Appointment with Death* (1988), was *Mrs. North* (1988), and splendidly endured 1990's *Misery*. Most of her subsequent films failed to get much attention, with two no-

next page ▶

Bittersweet baby

Audrey Hepburn romances at the Castro

by Tavo Amador

One reason Audrey Hepburn was the supreme romantic actress of her era was the utter wonderment with which she viewed love, and the seriousness with which she took it. Those enormous brown eyes would open ever wider, and her sense of amazement and joy would soon become apparent. In her star-making, Academy Award-winning role in *Roman Holiday* (1953), she had to forego love for the sake of duty. Most of her subsequent films took her only as far as an engagement or presumption of marriage, and preserved all her romantic illusions. *Two for the Road* (1967) is a brilliant exception. It is teamed with *How to Steal a Million* (1966), a marvelous screwball comedy, both playing the Castro Theatre on Sunday, January 27, part of its Wide Wide Screen series.

Directed by Stanley Donen from an exceptional screenplay by Frederic Raphael, *Two for the Road* chronicles the romance and 12-year marriage of a young London couple (Hepburn and Albert Finney.) It cuts back and forth through time as they take a driving vacation through the south of France, which triggers memories of how they met years earlier. Hepburn's initially shy adoration of Finney, the pleasure she feels as their relationship deepens, and the sharpness of her disillusionment, which strikes as their lives take unforeseen turns, is a revelation. No other film captured the full range of her emotions or her rueful maturity so well.

Finney looks very handsome and has some charming moments, but doesn't seem fully at ease. He appears enchanted by

Hepburn: romantic illusions

Hepburn, yet is too self-involved to be likable. But when the marriage takes a serious turn — both have affairs with others — he manages something few actors would have dared at the time: he is convincingly cruel to her. The scene during which that happens is the most memorable and heartbreaking in the film. He appears to forgive her infidelity, and her bliss at their reconciliation is beautifully rendered. Unexpectedly, at her most vulnerable moment, he lashes out, wounding her deeply, perhaps permanently. His satisfaction and her pain are both captured brilliantly by Donen. The marriage survives, but romantic illusions do not.

The film is beautifully shot on location. Hepburn's clothes, created by a group of designers, including Mary Quant, rather than her usual Givenchy, have not all withstood the test of time, but do look very '60s. With Eleanor Bron, William Daniels, and Claude Dauphin. Hepburn's performance earned her the best reviews she had received in years.

Classic screwball

How to Steal a Million was a reunion between Hepburn and William Wyler, who had directed her Oscar-winning turn 13 years earlier, and again in 1961's *The Children's Hour*. Perhaps classic Hollywood's most versatile director, this was his first screwball comedy, and he proved himself a master of the form. Hepburn plays the daughter of a notorious art forger (Hugh Griffith). She meets insurance investigator Peter O'Toole, and together they decide to retrieve one of her father's phony statues from a museum.

Naturally, problems occur along the way. At one point, and it's the film's comic highlight, Hepburn and O'Toole hide in the museum's broom closet while trying to steal the million-dollar statue. The mayhem that follows provides some exceptionally funny scenes. Wyler makes O'Toole very sexy, and he and Hepburn have a hilarious, witty rapport. Eli Wallach plays a coarse American millionaire who is eager to buy the stolen statue, and Charles Boyer appears briefly as a French official specializing in art theft. Shot on location in Paris. Unfortunately, the movie was inexplicably dismissed by critics at the time, and it did not do well at the box office.

Hepburn made one more film, the very successful *Wait Until Dark* (1967), a thriller that garnered her the Best Actress Oscar nomination that should have come for *Two for the Road*, before announcing her retirement. She returned to the screen for 1976's *Robin and Marian*, opposite Sean Connery, and worked sporadically after that until her untimely death in 1992 at age 63. ▼

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International buzz, American spirit

Guest conductors lead the San Francisco Symphony

by Philip Campbell

For the past two weeks, guest conductors have ruled from the podium at Davies Symphony Hall. The visiting leaders were well contrasted, but it was the repertoire and a soloist that provided most of the excitement.

International buzz lent anticipation to the San Francisco Symphony debut of German conductor Ingo Metzmacher. Currently General Music Director of the City of Hamburg, Metzmacher is better known as a pianist, since 1981, in the Ensemble Modern-Germany's terrific contemporary music group. He has been conductor of the Ensemble since 1985.

Recordings of the Ensemble have alerted American listeners to Metzmacher's interpretive flair, and EMI's impressive release of the eight symphonies of Karl Amadeus Hartmann with the Bamberg Symphony made the SFS premiere of that composer's *Miserae* a must-hear.

Metzmacher opened his concerts with that work, and created a stir. Hartmann was a master, done in by the era in which he lived. A fervent anti-Fascist in Nazi Germany couldn't have been more troubled. Still, he wrote regularly, forced by conscience and necessity to send his works abroad for performance.

He was a quiet hero who

Ingo Metzmacher: sense of timing

helped people to safety and avoided conscription by going underground, so it is cruelly ironic that his music is scarcely known outside of Germany.

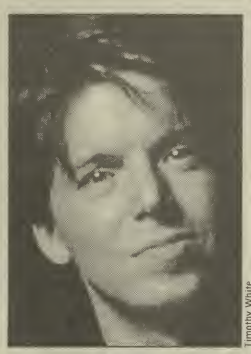
Miserae dates from 1934 and displays Hartmann's kaleidoscopic influences. There are echoes of Berg and Bartok and, more easily recognizable, Mahler throughout the brief, 15-minute piece. The grim title fits the dedication to the victims of Dachau, but there are shots of brutal humor and allusions to Hebraic music at key moments in the score, and even a few jazzy incidents.

Metzmacher showed a real sense of timing and managed to keep a cohesive hold on the episodic work. The musicians responded knowingly to the conductor's clear and often entertaining body language. The Symphony's brass section deserved the enthusiastic audience response.

Stern remembered

After such a startling curtain-raiser, violinist Joshua Bell had his work cut out for him. Of course, most of the capacity crowd was there to hear him anyway. Bell continues to grow as an artist, and he doesn't rely on his youth or good looks for recognition. He could if he wanted to, but he is genuinely talented and possesses an adventurous spirit embracing the music of his fellow Americans. It was gratifying to know that he dedicated his recent performances to the memory of the great Isaac Stern, sadly departed so soon after the WTC tragedy.

New York and Carnegie Hall,



Timothy White

Joshua Bell: sweet tone baby

the world and Israel mourn Stern's death. So Bell performed a work that was premiered by Stern in 1954. The composer was Leonard Bernstein, and the orchestra was the Israel Philharmonic. Bernstein's *Serenade* has been called superficial by some; others (myself included) find it to be one of his finer short symphonic works. If the beloved maestro was a bit of a musical magpie, he was also a genius at synthesizing his borrowings. The *Serenade* is a good example of all that makes his music so attractive. There is emotion and poetry, memorable melody and rhythmic propulsion in plenty.

Bell is capable of strong rhapsodic playing, and his tone is as sweet as Stern's was astringent. Both of them have brought valid interpretations to Bernstein's charming score, based loosely on five episodes from Plato's *Symposium*.

Metzmacher and Bell made a fine pair and seemed to be having a good time together, though the violinist appeared more aloof. He raised his head, closed his eyes and arched his body all the while Metzmacher swung and swayed. The orchestra also looked thoroughly involved.

Roger Norrington: an odd choice

Romantic in the end

Last week, Roger Norrington returned to Davies Hall after an absence of almost four years. He has been a fairly regular guest conductor since his debut here in 1988. The world knows him best as one of the foremost proponents of historical performance practice. In recent years, his three decades of exploration have finally led to the Romantic repertoire.

No one can deny Sir Roger's dedication and awesome research, though some detractors cite his often bloodless interpretations as rather too much of a good thing. There is so much to admire in his careful intellectualism that it seems petty to carp about his relative lack of relaxed humor or visible passion. Suffice it to say his recent choice of an all-Liszt program seemed odd.

In actuality, his refusal to wallow in Lisztian excesses helped with the first piece on the program, the bravura piano showcase *Totentanz*. The long and wonderful *A Faust Symphony* that filled the rest of the bill suffered by comparison.

Christian Steiner

Konstantin Lifschitz: power play

Making his SFS debut, Ukrainian-born pianist Konstantin Lifschitz played well against Norrington's restraint in the exciting *Totentanz*. His mixture of power and precision made the taxing assignment appear easy, while the orchestra supported him brilliantly. Too bad he wasn't afforded an encore on the night I attended. At least he left the audience well aware of his technical prowess.

A Faust Symphony is a big Romantic work, requiring large performing forces. The male chorus does not engage until the very end, and they only get about six minutes of work, along with a tenor soloist. There is even brief use of the organ. The first three movements are less symphony than character studies, but they are remarkably textured and interesting.

Norrington seemed bent on his characteristic avoidance of theatricality. As with his groundbreaking interpretations of Beethoven, he disallowed much rhythmic give and take. Some might have found it invigorating. I found it counterproductive.

The performance was good, but uninvolving. The lovely "Gretchen" movement fared best, with some sweet chamber-like playing from first-chair soloists, and the concluding "Mephistopheles" at least had the Men of the San Francisco Symphony Chorus to add excitement. Tenor John Mark Ainsley was not in perfect voice.

To hear this remarkable work as it should go, try either of Bernstein's recordings. For passion on the podium, MTT returns on January 31. ▼

Lauren Bacall

◀ *previous page*

table exceptions: Altman's *Pret-a-Porter* (1994) and Barbara Streisand's *The Mirror Has Two Faces* (1996). As the once-beautiful mother in the latter, she was funny, moving, and as charismatic as ever, earning her first, long overdue Oscar nomination. (Incredibly, she lost to Juliette Binoche for *The English Patient*.) An affecting reunion with Douglas, *Diamonds* (1999), failed to find an audience.

Since the 1950s, she has appeared regularly on television, recently excelling in *Too Rich: The Secret Life of Doris Duke* (1999), a harrowing performance. Last year she returned to Broadway in a revival of Noel Coward's *Waiting in the Wings*, getting good notices. In the 1960s, she was the first star selected by Blackglama Mink for their famous "What Becomes A Legend Most" ads, which did not identify the individual pictured. They didn't need to. When the American Film Institute selected the top legends of the century, she finished 20th among women, a spot she would have earned even without Bogart, who was first among the men. ▼

THEATRE

Lynn Redgrave

◀ Arts cover

makes a case that the play is only superficially autobiographical. Without a prompting question, she cleared up a question of paternity that the play could raise.

"Am I Michael Redgrave's daughter? Absolutely I'm Michael Redgrave's daughter."

Lynn Redgrave, whose film career has bookend Oscar nominations for *Georgy Girl* and *Gods and Monsters*, first explored playwriting in *Shakespeare for My Father*. That one-woman show directly addressed her tenuous relationship with her father, and *The Mandrake Root* must have seemed like a maternal sequel to *Shakespeare* at its premiere a year ago at the Long Wharf.

Critic Alvin Klein in *The New York Times* went to town on this, saying that the play "is fodder for mental health professionals, gossip mongers, and anyone taken with the sordid underside of seemingly sublime lives."

Klein also attacked with even harsher barbs than these in a kind of over-the-top condemnation that made it sound like he had, well, sorry, like he had a feather up his ass. "I think 'feather up his ass' is an excellent expression," the stylishly attired Redgrave replied in a friendly, demure English way. "I was given similar descriptions of that review by other people who read it. I skipped that one."

Other reviews were more supportive, and while Redgrave sensed a positive reaction from audiences, she still set out to make major changes before the San Jose run. "The biggest thing I learned from the Long Wharf," Redgrave said, "was that there wasn't a clarity to whose story it was."

Three women

The Mandrake Root, when seen at the Long Wharf, was the tale of three generations of women in an English family. There was Rose, based on Lynn Redgrave's 91-year-old mother Rachel Kempson; her middle-aged daughter Sally, now living in California (as does Redgrave); and a teenage granddaughter who has come out as lesbian (as did Redgrave's daughter, before adjusting to bisexuality and getting married). Memories, regrets, and resentments collide in this story that shuttles between past and present as Rose (the role Redgrave plays) is forced to accept responsibility for her choices in marriage and love.

Redgrave in *The Mandrake Root:* memories, regrets, and resentments.

But when the play opens at San Jose Rep, the lesbian granddaughter will have disappeared from the play and the character's lesbianism transferred to Sally. It's a move, Redgrave said, that now focuses the conflicts between just these two characters.

"I hated to kill Kate," she said of the granddaughter character, "but it occurred to me that she was the one who got to have the great confrontational scenes with her grandmother. I wanted the play to be Sally's journey with her mother."

Removing the lesbian granddaughter also removed one of the parallels to Redgrave's own life that may have added to the biographical speculation. But Redgrave said that the change had nothing to do with these musings, an activity she describes as "boring."

But it can seem as if Redgrave herself opened the door to these biographical guessing games. "I suppose one could say I opened the door," Redgrave replied, "but I certainly didn't intend to open the door. All I can say is that, yes, I started out with a woman inspired very much by my mother."

Redgrave was intrigued that her mother had a longtime lover, and that when the relationship ended abruptly and mysteriously, it sent her mother into an emotional tailspin. "It was an extraordinary time, and there was nothing one could do to help her for the longest time. She did come out of it, and I began thinking about what would happen if that which you thought was your salvation, that which provided an outlet for a woman whose sexuality is extremely alive, were to suddenly disappear."

But Redgrave doesn't feel she is revealing any secrets about her mother that Kempson didn't acknowledge in a 1986 autobiography. Even so, there was a gossip item in *The New York Post* last year claiming that Redgrave's sister Vanessa was furious about this invasion of family privacy.

"You know who invented that? My ex-husband," Redgrave said, with just a hint of steel coming into her voice. "He called up the paper and told them a lie. They printed my sister's long, furious letter in response, but nobody hears the letter. They hear the lie."

Redgrave acknowledged that *The Mandrake Root* has gained a new resonance for her because of a personally calamitous event that transpired after she had begun the play. That was the messy collapse of a 32-year marriage to her agent-manager John Clark. It seems that, in 1998, Redgrave discovered that a boy she regarded as her grandson was actually her husband's son by her daughter-in-law.

"I lived a lie for a long time where I chose not to see the madness," said Redgrave, who admits to a new romantic interest in her life. "I certainly knew nothing of the more lurid details of my husband's life. So, perhaps as I was blind to my father, I was blind to my husband. For my own survival I kept up a sort of Plexiglas protection, and that has now changed in me, and I think I've brought some of it into the play.

"I know in my own life and in my mother's life that whatever path you choose, it just isn't any good to say, 'But I had to do it because ...' It's only when you've looked that in the eye can you be free, and I think I have looked it in the eye." ▼

***The Mandrake Root* will run at San Jose Rep through Feb. 24. Tickets are $20-$44. Call (408) 367-7255.**

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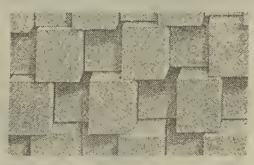


Salgado photos

◀ page 29

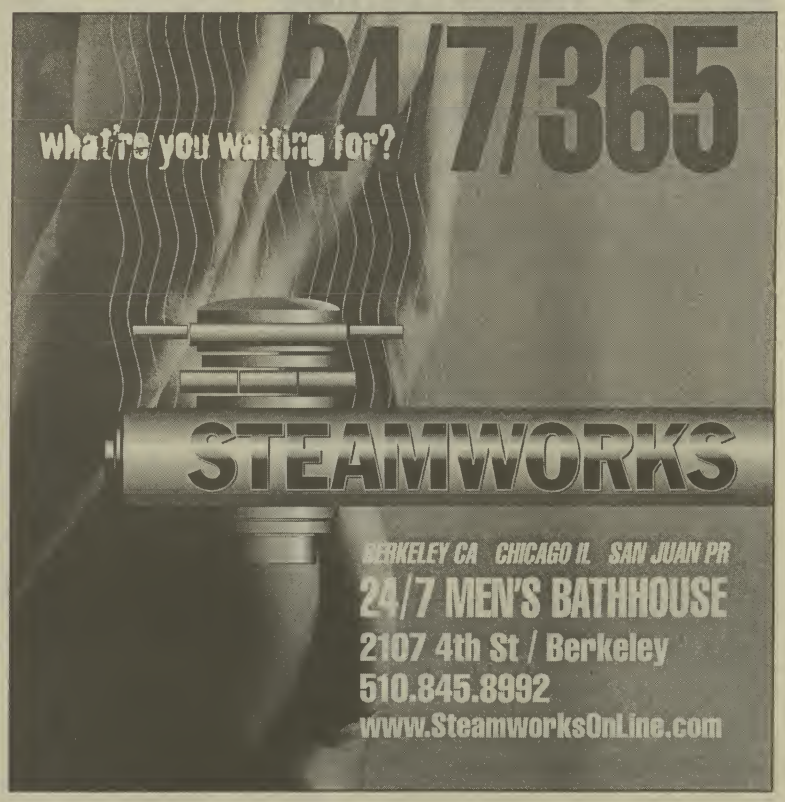
otherwise when you're seeing the violent disparity between the haves, with their armies and agendas, and the poorest of the poor? Some of the most disturbing images are those which show the human cost of war in Africa — a photo of a nurse fitting a prosthesis on a little boy's leg, blown off in a land mine in 1997 Angola, is starkly moving. There are dramatic, emotionally overwhelming pictures of Rwandan refugees that are touching and *painful* because they're so matter-of-fact.

Sorrow and pity

Though Salgado may appear just to witness, he's obviously empathetic, and his empathy speaks volumes. How can one *not* be moved by a 1997 image of Kurdish widows holding photos of their male relatives taken from them by Iraqi soldiers one night in 1983, their faces creased with loss and hope? They look for all the world like the tear-stained New Yorkers we saw on TV holding snaps of their loved ones lost in the WTC attacks. The drama and the sorrow are exactly the same, the only possible "difference" being that these victims aren't just middle or working class, but desperately and always poor. And then there are the refugees from Tajikstan in a North Afghan camp in 1996 who just might be this year's "collateral damage," like all the other victims of war, the only "winners" being the governments and arms dealers who profit from the suffering of others in countries all over the world.

Time and again the "losers" here are innocent women and children caught between the proverbial rock and a hard place — be it war, famine, drought, overpopulation, or the political agenda of whoever's in power. All the artspeak about our fear of "the other" can't obscure the simple truths these faces speak, especially those in sections of the show like "The Children." Though Salgado's portraits of them have a conceptual aspect — they're all the same size and format, with each child seen fully, staring directly at the viewer — they bear witness just by being there. Yet I don't think any of the pictures in "The Children" are as affecting, and yes, as uplifting as Salgado's photos of Palestinian boys playing in the street of a Lebanese refugee camp in 1998. They look absolutely, entirely joyful. And a moment captured with such simple, basic honesty will never go away. If *Migrations* doesn't affect you, you'd better check your pulse. ▼

***Migrations: Photographs by Sebastião Salgado*, at Berkeley Art Museum, 2625 Durant Ave., UC Berkeley, through March 24. Information: (510) 642-0808.**



Guesswork

by Deborah Peifer

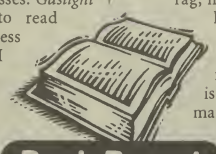
The way directing is taught in most places is that a student chooses a scene, goes off and directs it, then shows the finished product to the class. The process, the way in which the director arrives at the result, is shrouded in mystery, and so there is no way of knowing how the result was achieved. The process, which ought to be what matters most in an academic situation, is utterly absent. The same is true, alas, for most artistic endeavors. We can't watch the poet struggle with the choice of the perfect word, or listen as a composer experiments with notes and tempo. In her newest book, Carol Guess (*Seeing Dell, Switch*) offers a journey through the creative process that is utterly absorbing, a moving exploration of how a novelist novs, and, perhaps even more interestingly, why she sometimes fails at her project.

Gaslight (Odd Girls, $15.95) is a book about process, but it is also a memoir, a work of fiction, and a fascinating exploration of the

hows of writing. I can't recall a more compelling work, one that ought to be required reading for anyone who writes.

Fat Rosie and Rose is the novel Guess was trying to write, but for reasons she was unable to understand, resisted coming into being. As she explored why the novel was not working, she realized that the exploration was in fact considerably more interesting than the failed novel. The result of her efforts is "a graveyard and a carnival ride, funeral and wedding. ...This book is outside itself. Portions are autobiography, portions are fiction. Portions are poetry, document, description. It is a liar's mosaic, as any memoir must be."

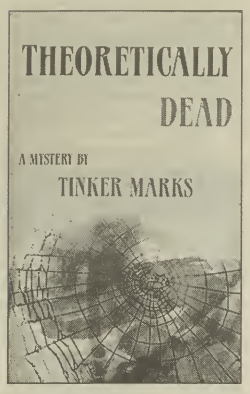
As Guess weaves her book outside itself, she provides astonishing insights into the way in which a writer selects, alters, and invents autobiography, and then transforms those truths into fiction. Her failures, and she does see her inability to complete *Fat Rosie* as a failure, are more interesting than most writers' successes. *Gaslight* made me want to read everything that Guess has written again. I can't think of a better recommendation than that.



Book Report

Fiction briefs

Reporter on the Run (New Victoria, $11.95) is Carlene Miller's third Lexy Hyatt mystery, and it is not bad. That puts it miles ahead of Hyatt 1 (*Killing at the Cat*) and Hyatt 2 (*Mayhem at the Marina*). Lexy is a reporter, and the paper she works at is in serious trouble, owing to the nefarious designs of one of the owners. He plans to turn the paper into a right-wing rag, mainly to annoy his left-leaning sister and co-owner. When he turns up murdered, the sister is only the first of many who might rejoice at Andrew's demise. Lexy herself is a suspect, which is bad enough, but when she becomes a target of threats verbal and physical, it's time for her to get into serious detecting mode. Since that is a lot like serious investigative journalism mode, her efforts in that direction have some credibility. Miller still needs to work on characterization and pace, but those reservations aside, I enjoyed *Reporter on the Run*, and I look forward to Hyatt 4.



Remember when we all struggled with the notion of whether lesbian fiction could be written by straight people? That issue has apparently been resolved with *Theoretically Dead* (New Victoria, $11.95), written by the husband-and-wife writing team of Mark

next page ▶

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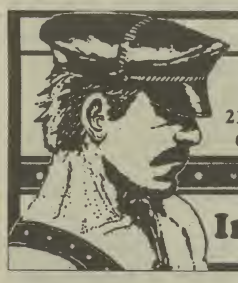
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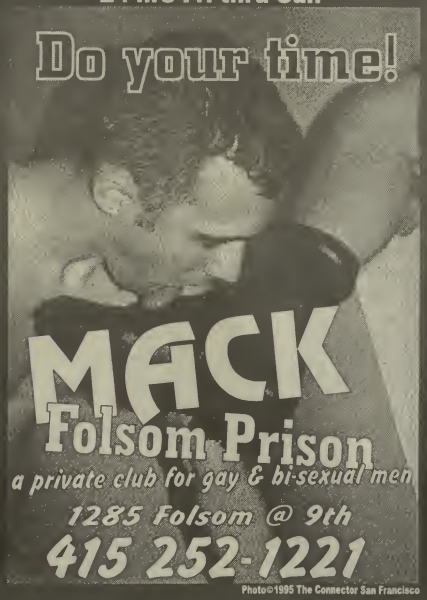
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January galleries

◀ page 29

Gallery (345 Sutter St., 415-981-1080) showed selections from the Rauschenberg exhibition which will open the new gallery at the Gay Community Center on Market Street when it finally premieres this spring.

The Bucheon Galley in Hayes Valley had a greatest-hits installation at Expo which included some of the current artists on view at 540 Hayes Street. *Disruptive Topographies* is a whimsical show which is the visual equivalent of the film *Bagdad Cafe*. The result of a collaborative residency of three artists living together in RV's for two summers at an Air Force base in Utah, the artworks tweak the American tradition of landscape painting. The precisely crafted, small-scale oils of Cynthia Hooper show the beauty of industrial shapes, from fuel tanks to castaway turbines, with a Hudson River School-kind of objectivity. Erling Sjovold, in a painting like "Precipital," paints a bi-polar landscape whose distant landscape looks like the play of light and shadow in a Thomas Moran view of the Grand Canyon, and fills the foreground with the discarded junk left in the great American desert. Jerry Smith, whose paintings have elsewhere concentrated on car crashes, in "Fall Elsewhere" creates monumental forms out of yard-sale furniture stacked upon itself in the bright glare of Utah's summer. The twisted metal of his junked trailer homes is rendered with a haunting kind of beauty. The show runs until February; call the gallery at 415-863-2891, and preview the paintings at www.bucheon.com.

Brite idea

Oakland's Lizabeth Oliveria Gallery had selections at the Art Expo from their current installation, called *You Ought'a Be In Pictures,* which features the work of Steve DeFrank, Rob Conger, and Jason Mecier. New Yorker DeFrank's portrait of Mark Spitz's

Lizabeth Oliveria Gallery

"Fritz," by Steve DeFrank (hand-dyed Lite Brite pegs on velvet lightbox)

Speedo-clad crotch, made of a zillion tiny hand-dyed Lite Brite bulbs poking through a board, gave only a small glimpse into the lunacy on display at Oliveria until February 2. An embarrassingly frank full-frontal nude portrait of DeFrank's parents also glows with Lite Brite colors, and is not fathomable in reproduction. Yale-trained Rob Conger is showing a series of portraits of Alan Greenspan, of all people, made out of traditional hooked rugs.

Their work is well-paired with that of San Francisco artist Jason Mecier, who is becoming nationally famous for his renderings of '60s and '70s icons like Nancy Sinatra and the original *Charlie's Angels* babes in mosaics made of beans, candy, popcorn and macaroni. Mecier is onto something new here, with his pop portraits becoming almost unbearably three-dimensional. The bits and pieces that make up the images of Linda Blair in *The Exorcist*, Rod Serling, and WWF Wrestler The Rock include such cast-off objects as entire telephones and plastic action figures. Seen from up-close, they are junk, and from a distance they are art. Luckily, at Oliveria, you can back up until Mecier's artistry falls into place. Too artful to be craft, too self-aware to be kitsch, the work of these artists fills a void that exists in a space between these stereotypes. The gallery can be found at 942 Clay St. in an up-and-coming neighborhood of downtown Oakland. Phone 510-625-1350, or check out their website at www.lizabetholiveria.com. ▼

BOOKS

A man of letters

by Jim Nawrocki

Dearly Beloved Friends: Henry James's Letters to Younger Men
edited by Susan E. Gunter and Steven H. Jobe; The University of Michigan Press, $29.95

Henry James is one of those American authors, like T.S. Eliot, who seem more British than American. Born in New York, James was educated internationally, traveled greatly, and eventually settled in England. His cosmopolitan aura is sustained less by the facts of his biography, however, than by the nature of his enormous body of work. In his famous novels and short stories, and in his extensive travel writings, James dealt frequently with the contrast between the American and European temperament. And his elaborate, richly textured prose seems to place him more comfortably among the Europeans than among his American contemporaries such as Edith Wharton and William Dean Howells.

James' prose is renowned for its complexity and cultivated ambiguity. Who can forget, for example, James' masterful use of the "unreliable narrator" technique in his unforgettable ghost story *The Turn of the Screw*? But for all the craft and mastery of James' fiction, there's an altogether different James present in his letters. There's little ambiguity in them. They are a chronicle of a life (and loves) in progress, and they are direct, playful, and sometimes surprisingly erotic. Recent scholarship has refocused attention on the author's correspondence. In tandem with the publication of a volume of James' letters to female friends is the publication of *Dearly Beloved Friends: Henry James's Letters to Younger Men*.

This new book contains letters from James to four young men in particular: the sculptor Hendrik Andersen (1872-1940), society figure Jocelyn Persse (1873-1943), and the writers Howard Sturgis (1855-1920) and Sir Hugh Walpole (1884-1941). All four were notably younger than James, and all were more than friends to the much venerated author. Editors Susan E. Gunter and Steven H. Jobe have done an admirable job culling a total of 166 examples from James' vast epistolary output, and a fair amount of the letters in this book are being published for the first time. The book is meticulously noted, and contains 11 pages of photographs of both James and the objects of his affection.

Human feelings

It would be an unfair simplification to say that these are simply love letters. In their concise but very helpful introduction to the collection, Gunter and Jobe point out that James' relationships with each of the young men were nuanced and complex, difficult to characterize with simple throw-away explanations. He was love-stricken with many young men, to be sure, but he was also a father, a mentor, and a harsh critic to them. And something of a flirt. He could be loving with them, even doting, and he could be stern. These letters are snapshots of James in many moods. Given the intensely personal nature of any individual's private correspondence, it's not surprising that the James who emerges in this collection of letters is endearingly human.

Gunter and Jobe do not tiptoe around the obvious homoeroticism of these letters, but they are careful not to foist the label "homosexual" upon the novelist. Their introduction serves as a helpful primer on James and his literary circle, and they use it to explore and elaborate upon the attitudes toward male-to-male "love" shared by James and his contemporaries. It might be more useful to use the term "bisexual" to describe James, his male companions, and many of those in their

milieu. After all, James himself also had romantic attachments to women, and it was not uncommon for young men of that era to "play both sides," as it were.

Gunter and Jobe have taken pains to present these letters in such a way that one gets the sense of what it would have been like to read them in James' own hand. Most texts are taken directly from the original letters, or at least from typescripts of the originals. It's a treat to see this intimate, private and lively Henry James. James makes frequent references to his desire for not just figurative, but physical closeness to his young friends. There's passion and playfulness at work here. In a postscript to one of his letters to young Walpole, for example, James writes: "Your envelope arrived this a.m. unglued — not having evidently received, on its gum, the lick of your silver tongue. Your gentle text wd. have been accessible — but there was no harm done. Do, however, always apply the lingual caress."

The editors are clearly in awe of their subject. In their notes to their chronology of James' life, they include the following for the years 1906-15: "Plagued by depression and ill health in 1910, he burns most of the letters written to him, yet many of the letters he writes survive to proclaim him one of the greatest correspondents in all history." Reading the selections presented in this book, it's easy to understand this assessment. ▼

Porn star tragedy

by Alex Robertson Textor

A Thousand and One Night Stands: The Life of Jon Vincent
by H.A. Carson; 1st Books Library

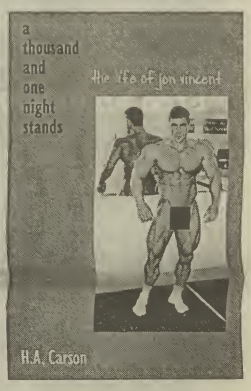
Porn stars are always interesting. Because of the public nature of porn videos and the ways that porn actors directly inspire sex, porn stars can be everyone's best friend or hottest fantasy. This is why a book like H.A. Carson's *A Thousand and One Night Stands: The Life of Jon Vincent* will automatically find an audience. The latest addition to the porn star tragedy genre, it quenches prurient interest in the late bisexual porn star Jon Vincent.

The most unusual thing about *Thousand* is authorial. Author credit goes to H.A. Carson, though the voice throughout is either Jon Vincent's or a first-person approximation of his voice. It reads like a spoken narrative, full of the tiny contradictions and historical disjunctures that typically characterize spoken, not written, personal accounts. The difficulty here could be resolved with the use of the prefix "as told to" prior to Carson's name. Without such a caveat, *Thousand* seems slightly problematic.

Thousand's narrative of rapacious drug abuse and psychological descent is neither novel nor riveting. Perhaps there have just been too many explorations of this theme in the last few decades. Once most readers have been exposed to the depths of a heroin addict's miserable, desperate quest, it takes very fine handling of tone and subject of an addict's quest to captivate.

Thousand does not achieve this goal, despite the intensity of the addiction it portrays. This failure has to do with subject saturation on the one hand, and the narrative of atonement on the other. Throughout *Thousand* and in the concluding author's epilogue, Vincent is clearly concerned with sending out a cautionary message to young people about drug use and the porn industry. This is all well and good, but it also turns this story into any other story of redemption. There may be no way out of this trap, but it does render *Thousand* somewhat cliché.

On the other side of the ledger, the book will be of interest to gay porn aficionados. One gets something of an inside track on Jon Vincent's trademark, legendary



verbal assaults. Networks of producers, directors and stars are sometimes boldly, sometimes gingerly fingered, giving those with the prior knowledge a more intimate view of industry interrelationships and set details.

Obviously, those who have specifically followed Vincent's career will find all sorts of interesting material, both from within the realm of gossip and from the grain of the book itself. *A Thousand and One Night Stands* is a harrowing though entertaining read. ▼

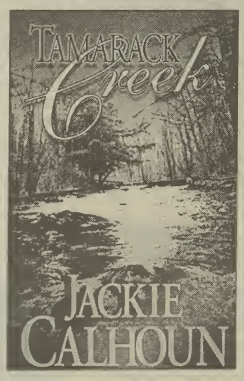
Book Report

◀ previous page

Montgomery and Irene Powell under the name Tinker Marks. The question of whether straight people can write good lesbian fiction remains open.

Theoretically Dead purports to be a mystery, but the only real conundrums are why the amateur dyke dick, Claire, takes so long to solve the murder and related questions, and why she stays with her partner, Emma, possibly the most annoying character in fictional history. Emma makes Rhoda Penmark (*The Bad Seed*) appealing by comparison. Emma demands, nastily, and Claire gives in. Emma manipulates, and Claire gives in. Claire wonders if Emma might be the murderer for way too long for me to think that theirs is a healthy relationship. As mystery and as fiction, *Theoretically Dead* is effectively DOA.

I wanted to like Jackie Calhoun's latest, *Tamarack Creek* (Bella, $11.95), lots more than I did. Her project, the exploration of why a woman stays with a batterer, and why a lesbian might become involved with that woman, is an intriguing one, but the novel lacks passion, or indeed emotion of any kind. I never understood Carly's obsession with Serena, or why she stays with her, given Ser-



ena's unwillingness to leave her husband. Each character is flat and one-dimensional; at no point did I care what happened to any of them.

Even some events

National Book Award winner Andrew Solomon reads from *The Noonday Demon - An Atlas of Depression* on January 24 at 7:30 p.m. at a Different Light. Also at ADL, on January 30, 7:30 p.m., Reverend Jim Webb discusses *Pathways to Inner Peace*, which might be very useful after the depression discussion.

We Love You, Alice B. Toklas, an exhibition of photos, letters and, of course, cookbooks from the Gertrude Stein and Alice B. Toklas collection of local collector Hans Gallas, continues at the Main Library through March 7. ▼

If you have gossip, inquiries or information of a literary nature, send them to DeborahPeifer@msn.com, or via snail mail to the BAR.

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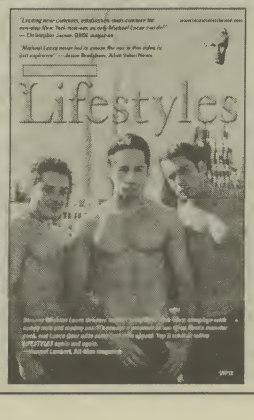

OUT&ABOUT

Calendare

by Mark Martin

Poets' 'Jubilee'

Whatever the event, if it's got **Kevin Killian**'s name attached to it, it's bound to be a literary queer's delight. As a long-time poet poseur and past open-reading whore, I know whereof I speak. Killian is one of our stars. I swoon in his presence. So will you, if you're at all poetic or easily affected by genius and charm.

Let me regress: It's been a long time since I regularly attended poetry events, but that's not entirely my fault. The vibrant scene I dived into in the 1980s — when Killian was just emerging as a star; when **Aaron Shurin** was teaching me and generations of other new poets and writers our craft; when the late, great **Tede Matthews** was conducting readings at Modern Times Bookstore; when the late, darkly handsome, deeply thoughtful **Steve Abbott**, dean of the local poetry scene, was engaging the queer boys and girls at Club Chaos; when the late, ultra-sexy **Sam D'Allesandro** was charming everyone with his *Slippery Sins* — that scene mostly evaporated in the 1990s. It didn't die completely, but AIDS took much of the air out of it, and poetry in general fell out of fashion. Luckily rap and slam came along, but something of that old Beat/Language Poet sensibility seemed lacking.

This Friday, bless Killian's heart, a **"Poets Theater Jubilee"** brings back some of that flavor, updated for the times. Killian is curating the opening night of this far-out poetry festival, which takes place initially at **Small Press Traffic Literary Arts Center** at California College of Arts and Crafts (1111 Eighth St.; 7:30 p.m.; $5-$10). The night offers the premiere of ***How Phenomena Appear to Unfold: The Hind***, a new play by **Leslie Scalapino**, the author of 18 books of poetry, fiction, plays, and essays. Her latest piece, a haunting drama of Afghan struggle, is buttressed by a selection of short (10 minute) plays by poets and writers mostly new to the stage, including **Tina Darragh**, **Stephen Beachy**, **Chris Vitiello**, **Dan Farrell**, **Laura Moriarty** & **Nick Robinson**, and **Brent Cunningham**.

Leslie Scalapino

On Wednesday, January 30, the "Jubilee" shifts to **The LAB** (2948 16th St.; 7pm; $5-$10 sliding), where **Carla Harryman** reads from her new book ***Gardener of Stars*** (Atelos), which she calls "an experimental novel that explores the paradise and wastelands of utopian desire." Known for her genre experiments and gender irreverence, Harryman is a native Californian who has spent much of her life in the Bay Area, and now lives in Detroit where she teaches Women's Studies. ▼

For more information about "Jubilee," phone 551-9278, or visit www.sptraffic.org

Nadine Defranoux

The Marriage of Bette and Boo happens at EXIT on Taylor. See Friday.

Fri 25

848 Community Space

"Hyena Comedy Showcase," starring Kristian Ruggieri, Missy Crawford, Jenny Pritchett, Bootney, Scott Simcock, Scott Yeats, Sue Clark, and Steve Bush, all ex-students of Hank Hyena's Comic Monologue class at UC Berkeley Extension. Their motto: "Laff 'till you pee!" $6 (includes free beer!). 8:30pm. 848 Divisadero St. Info: 643-8118, ext. 3.

The Stud

"Swing Jive Dance at the Stud Weekly every Friday!" $5 for lesson after 6pm; DJ'd party 7-9pm. No partner needed. 399 9th St. (at Harrison).

Rose Street House of Music, Berkeley

DivaBands presents a second-anniversary showcase featuring Bern, Elin Jr., Roberta Donnay, Christy Claxton (on tour from Texas), and Tiger Zane (on tour from Seattle). $8-$20 sliding. 8pm. 1829 Rose St., Berkeley. Tix/info: (510) 594-4000 (ext. mus); www.rosestreetmusic.com; www.divabands.com

Elbo Room

Live world music: Yaldah presents Shabaz (formerly the Ali Khan Band), featuring the voices of Sukhawat Ali Khan and Riffat Salamat, siblings who trace their lineage back to court musicians for ruler Akbar the Great. Their father was the great classical Indian singer, Ustad Salamat Ali Khan. Riffat is a rare female exponent of the Qawwali Sufi singing style. Multi-instrumentalist and producer Richard Michos brings a Western sensibility to the band's sound. $7. 10pm-2am. 21+w/ID. 647 Valencia St. (at 17th St.). Info: 552-7788.

Slavonic Cultural Center

In concert: The Slavyanka Russian Men's Chorus returns triumphant to the Bay Area after a special invitation performance at the Russian Embassy in Washington, D.C. Joining them will be The Dalmacjio singers, who will enrich the evening with their Croatian and mixed choral repertoire. $10 gen'l.; children free. 8pm. 60 Onondaga Ave. (near Alemany, a short walk from Balboa BART). Tix/info: (510) 649-0941; www.slavonicweb.org

EXIT Theatre, Stage Left

Chameleon Theatre Company presents "The Revenge of the Woman Dressed Largely in Black" by Canadian playwright Blake Heathcote. Four actors will masterfully guide you through the mystery, betrayal, attempted murder and out-right ridiculousness of this neo-post Victorian comedic quick change thriller. Directed by Erin Merritt. $18 ($15 students). 8pm. Thru Feb. 16. 156 Eddy St. Tix/info: 595-7716.

EXIT on Taylor

Density Over Duration Productions presents: "the Marriage of Bette and Boo" by Christopher Durang, a witty comedy that takes an ironic, hilarious, poignant look at the institutions of marriage and family. $15 ($12 students/seniors). 8pm. Also Jan. 26 & Feb. 1, 2, 8, 9, 15 & 16. 277 Taylor St. Tix/info: 648-3091.

Sat 26

The Brava Theater

Special video presentation: "Out Of The Darkness," created by leather activists Mark Frazier, Hardy Haberman and Lynda Blakeslee in an effort to educate others about the myths and realities of BDSM practices and the BDSM community. Featuring interviews with mental-health professionals and human-sexuality researchers, plus dialogues with well-known SM-community leaders including Joseph Bean, Viola Johnson, Jill Carter and the late Tony DeBlaze. The video is both a historical and contemporary account of what people in the leather community do, and how it differs from non-consensual abuse. Panel discussion and audience dialogue follow. Sponsors/endorsers include: The Exiles; Society of Janus; Castlebar; CineAcción; The Scenery; and Fetish Diva Midori. Free. 7-9pm. 2781 24th Street (at York St., one block from Potrero). Info: Sal Hopkins at (415) 864-4151; or Evan King at (510) 465-7331.

New Conservatory Theatre Center

Opening night; In Concert: "The All Night Strut," a musical celebration of the 1930s and '40s, conceived by Fran Charnas; with music direction by Scrumbly Koldewyn, and stage direction by Dyan McBride. Rediscover the joys of composers Hoagy Carmichael, Frank Loesser, Duke Ellington, Johnny Mercer and others in this two-act sassy musical filled with jazz, blues, bebop and song standards from the Depression, WWII, and the post-war boom era. Featuring Ralph William Boone, Katie Dederain, Tim Johnson and Kristen Price. $35 opening night; $15-$25 thru March 3. 8pm. 25 Van Ness Ave. (near Market). Tix/info: 861-8972; ticketweb.com

Julia Morgan Center for the Arts, Berkeley

"Julia's Feast of Dance," an evening of dance featuring Axis Dance Company, Shipp Dance Theatre, Chingchi Yu, Huckabay McAllister Dance, Mahea Uchiyama Center for International Dance, Anima Mundi Dance Company, Facing East Dance, and The Movement. $15. 8 pm. 2640 College Ave. (at Derby), Berkeley. Info: (510) 845-8542; www.juliamorgan.org

Montclair Women's Cultural Arts Club, Oakland

In concert: J. Byrd Hosch & the Kountry Kays. Hosch is a Texan who writes original country music that sounds like it's been part of the country music scene since you were bounced on your Momma's knee. She and her band know how to bring the audience to their feet and keep them dancing. Hosch's style is fun and funny; she tells stories with a twang. $20 adv.; $23 door. 7:30pm. 1650 Mountain Blvd., Oakland. Tix/info: (510) 339-1832.

Harvey Milk Photography Center

The Bay Area Photographers Collective (BAPC) presents a lecture/slide show by SF-based photographer Nina Glaser. Her work has shown internationally, and is known for evocative images of nudes who are often covered in cracking white paint. Free. 2pm. 50 Scott St. (at Duboce), downstairs. Info: 554-9522.

Design Center Galleria

Transgender SF presents "Cotillion 2002: An Evening With Friends," the 19th Miss Transgender San Francisco pageant, directed by Nurse Rachael (aka Wallace J. Light). Nine gorgeous and talented contestants will compete for the distinguished title of "Miss Transgender San Francisco 2002." This glamorous annual competition draws hundreds of participants in high drag and raises funds for transgender outreach and education programs in the Bay Area. Supervisor Mark Leno will be on hand to present a Certificate of Honor to the organization in observance of its community involvement. Featuring special performances by GAPA Dance Company and the International Gay Rodeo Choir. With MC's Tita Aida and Lenny Broberg. $60, $50, $40 reserved seating; $30 balcony. Doors open 6pm; show at 7:30pm. 101 Henry Adams St. Info: 490-5800. Tix: Marlena's, Piedmont Boutique, and API Wellness Center.

Exploratorium

Screening: "Life Itself," a new film by Todd Herman and Francis Kohler, offering glimpses into the lives of three artists who work together at Creativity Explored, an art studio for adults with disabilities. The structure of the film more closely resembles a poem than a documentary. Screening time: 2pm. Also: check out the special event, "Dead Reckonings: Life Before Zero," an find out why medieval mathematicians went gaga for the zero when the concept first migrated from India. Learn how to reckon with a reckoning board (that's how counting was done before the zero). Event time: noon-4pm. $9 adults (members free). 3601 Lyon St. (at Palace of Fine

The Revenge of the Woman Dressed Largely in Black takes place at EXIT Theatre, Stage Left. See Friday.

DivaBands diva Roberta Donnay sings at the Rose Street House of Music in Berkeley. See Friday.

Arts, Marina). Info: EXPLORE.

Ellard Hall
"Super Bingo Night" benefiting Most Holy Redeemer AIDS Support Group. $25 per ticket admission includes 12 cards for each of 12 Bingo games. Cash prizes each game. Food, beer, wine, soft drinks, special Bingo games, and pull tabs available. 7pm. 100 Diamond St. (at 18th St.). Tix/info: 863-1581; MHR-ASG, 4321 18th St.

Synergy School
Queer Jitterbugs present Swing Rueda. "Do you love Jazz? Come dance it!" All ages. No partner or experience needed. $10. 6:30-7:30 beginning lesson and intermediate Swing Rueda; 9pm-midnight dancing. 1387 Valencia St. (near 25th St.). Info/membership: groups.yahoo.com/group/QueerSwingAlert

Mark I. Chester Studio
Closing weekend: Randy Barrow's "Artmail" and Mark I. Chester's "Digital Men." Chester will be doing cheap ($5) digital pix both today and Sunday, and Barrow will be on hand for the closing on Sunday. Free. 2-5pm. 1229 Folsom St. Info: 621-6294.

"Self Portrait," 1980, by Peter Hujar

On exhibit at Fraenkel Gallery (49 Geary St.): works by Nan Goldin and the late Peter Hujar (boyfriend of David Wojnarowicz), two of the great modern photographers. Call 981-2661, or visit www.fraenkelgallery.com

Sun 27

Grace Cathedral
American Bach Soloists present "More of The Three Cellos," featuring a trio of the early-music world's fines performers, playing three of the Bach Suites for Solo Violoncello. $20, $29, $37. 7:30pm. Tix/info: 621-7900; www.americanbach.org

Congregation Sha'ar Zahav
Chamber Music Concert: "A Celebration of Song." Featuring works by Mozart, Klein, Kodaly and Dahl. Perfomed by Scott Anderson, clarinet, Victoria Ehrlich, cello, and Randall Weiss, violin. The program's centerpiece is the *Duo for Violin and Cello* by Jewish Czech composer and pianist Gideon Klein, who died tragically at the age of 25, murdered by the Nazis in 1945. His last three years were spent at the Terezin concentration camp, where he organized concerts of contemporary Jewish music written and performed by his fellow prisoners. Co-presented with the Holocaust Center of Northern California. $12 CSZ member; $15 nonmember. 4pm. 290 Dolores St. (at 16th). Info: 861-6932; www.shaarzahav.org

Cowell Theater
San Francisco Performances presents Canadian pianist Stewart Goodyear, who opens the "Young Masters of the Piano" series. Known for imagination, a graceful, elegant style and exquisite technique, Goodyear is on the rise at only 23. He'll perform works by Mozart, Bach, Ravel, and Rachmaninoff, as well as his own composition, *Variations on "Eleanor Rigby,"* based on the Lennon/McCartney classic. $30. 11am. Fort Mason Center, Marina Blvd. & Buchanan St. Tix/info: 392-4400; www.performances.org

Bazaar Cafe
Forest Sun hosts "The Songbird Series Anniversary Show," an evening of folk music including singer/songwriter Garrin Benfield (who hosts the GLBT Songwriters Series at this down-home, friendly neighborhood cafe in the inner Richmond). 6pm. 5927 California St. Info: 831-5620; garrin.com

Mon 28

848 Community Space
"QComedy Showcase," the Two-Year Anniversary of Monday Night Gay Comedy, this week hosted by Cheril Vendetti from LA. Also presenting Chantal, Nick Leonard, David Guiney, Melissa Crawford, Guy Branum, Walter Smith, and Bridget Schwartz. And how about a big round of applause *for Nick Leonard and Larry*-bob, who started producing this showcase with their first show on January 31, 2000, following the closure of the pioneering gay comedy venue Josie's Cabaret. Every week they have a guest host who kicks off the show with a monologue, then brings an array of comedy talent, and just when you think you're laughed out, they bring out the killer closer, blonde bombshell Bridget Schwartz. $8 sliding. Beverages & snacks available. 8:30pm. 848 Divisadero St. (btwn Fulton & McAllister). Info: 541-5610; www.QComedy.com

Tue 29

Metropolitan Community Church
Class: Death and the Art of Grieving," a three-hour seminar led by Billy Clift, who shares his experiences with death, especially focusing on the passing of his dear friend and colleague, Elizabeth Montgomery. Her death triggered inter-dimensional beings, shamanic visions and other phenomena as detailed in his book, *Everything is Going to be Just Fine: the Ramblings of a Mad Hairdresser*. $35. 7-10pm. 150 Eureka St. Info: 267-3922.

Herbst Theatre
San Francisco Performances presents Austrian lyric baritone Wolfgang Holzmair, one of the finest lieder singers today, who has performed countless recitals in Europe's capitals. This season marks his ninth North American recital tour. He'll perform works by Felix-Mendelssohn-Bartholdy, Franz Schubert, Manuel de Falla, Johannes Brahms, and Maurice Ravel. $39 & $26. 8pm. 401 Van Ness Ave. Tix/info: 392-4400; www.performances.org

Wed 30

Buzz 9
"F**k Me I'm Famous," in which Local drag star Juanita More, SF's premiere drag DJ, spins a funky mix of old-school soul, rare disco, house, R&B, pop and hip-hop, with *some lip-synching classics from legendary divas. Juanita* More graces the turntables at Blossom's weekly party, with rotating DJs. Come dance, dress up and be part of the show. $5. 10pm-?am. 139 8th St. Info: Blossompresents@yahoo.com

The Rite Spot Cafe
"Twitterpated," where Tranny meets Fag Hag, featuring artist, vocalist (Minnie Pearl Necklace), inventor and flapper Rodney Austin plus pianist/vocalist Suzanne Ramsey (Kitten On the Keys; Frisky Frolics) in an evening of song and mischief. They ransack their treasure-chest for forgotten musical gems. Free. 9pm. 2099 Folsom St. (at 17th St.). Info: www.rodneyland.com; www.geocities.com/squisheykitty

Thu 31

The Phoenix Theatre
Opening night: Bare Bones Theatre Company presents Manuel Puig's "Kiss of the Spider Woman," with Patrick Mouton, David cavallero, and Gwendolyn Lindsey. Directed by Randal Klefbeck. $15. 8pm Thu-Sat. 653 Geary St. Tix: 642-1257.

Memorial Church, Stanford
Chanticleer and Stanford Lively Arts present the world premiere of British composer Sir John Tavener's *Lamentations and Praises*, conducted by Joseph Jennings; directed by Yves Coudray; performed by Chanticleer with members of the Handel & Haydn Society of Boston. This 70-minute liturgical drama, written expressly for the 12 voices of Chanticleer and an unusual combination of instruments and electronics, is inspired by Tavener's Orthodox faith, and calls for singing in "Orthodox Byzantine style." A Tibetan temple bowl and a Byzantine monastery bell are struck every 20 beats throughout the work. $34. 8pm. Also on Feb. 1. Tix/info: (650) 725-ARTS; http://livelyarts.stanford.edu

The Women's Building
"S*L*A*M! for Choice," a poetry fest about sex, abortion, politics, feminism, and your choices, hosted by CARAL, the California Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League. $5-$15 adv.; $7-$17 door, sliding scale. 7:30pm. 3543 18th St. (btwn Valencia & Guerrero). Tix/info: 334-1502; email caral@aol.com

Building 920, the Presidio
Extended run: ANTENNA's virtual opium trip, "The EUPHOR!UM," based on Samuel Taylor Coleridge's opium-induced poem "Kubla Khan." Director Chris Hardman has turned this Crissy Field warehouse into a surreal walk-through dreamscape using headsets, digital audio effects, three dimensional paintings, and a few Coney Island funhouse tricks. $15. 6-10pm Thu.; 7-11pm Fri. & Sat.; 3-7pm Sun. Tix/info: 332-9454; www.antenna-theater.org

Books Inc., Castro
Reading & booksigning featuring editor/publisher Winston Leyland and contributors to *Out in the Castro*, the new anthology by writers and photographers capturing the story of America's gayest neighborhood in all its glory. Free. 7:30pm. 2275 Market St. Info: 864-6777.

WANNA SUBMIT?

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David Baldwin wins MAL 2002

Mid-Atlantic Leather contest stirs DC

by Mister Marcus

Despite dire warnings of a horrendous winter blizzard, a pitiful four inches of snow fell on the nation's capital last weekend as the Centaur Motorcycle Club rolled out their latest edition of "Leather Weekend," and hundreds of spectators agreed this edition was an event to be remembered.

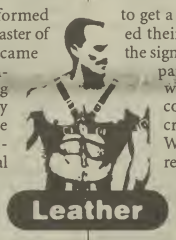
Another record-breaking leather crowd descended upon the Washington Plaza Hotel and four other hostelries to celebrate the first major leather gathering of 2002, and to cheer on twelve men who competed for the chance to succeed Michael Marino as Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2002, as well as a chance to compete next May in Chicago for the IML 2002 title.

The contenders were John Allison, Alan Azar, David Baldwin, Luis Casillas, Hillary Williams, Ross DeRose, Thomas Kahn, Doug Lindsay, Jack Miller, David Oravez, Jim Shear and David Philips. They faced judges Annie Romano-Blas, Mike Zuhl, Vern Stewart, Mike Marino, Jim McGlade, Joni Perri and Stefan Mueller.

Mister Marcus

The Mid-Atlantic Leather 2002 winners, from left, are Jack Miller, second runner-up; David Baldwin, the winner; and Jim Shear, first runner-up. Baldwin will go on to compete at IML in Chicago next May.

Frank Nowicki performed a scintillating stint as Master of Ceremonies, and came through with an opening number consisting of Frank himself, Gary Vandeventer, Wayne Nesbitt and Carl Baldwin. It was an original piece with choreography that brought the house down.



To fill in the gaps between the scored categories of speeches, and leather image, a knockout comedienne, Karen Williams, threw out with machine gun rapidity a barrage of one-liners that had the audience howling. In another appearance later on, she again zinged more one-liners and by this time, people were rolling in the aisles!

Of course, the physique/jock/revealing wear segment was the highlight, but most of the evening, those close enough to get a good look concentrated their attention on one of the signers for the hearing impaired. While some watched his hands, most concentrated on his crotch, including Ms. Williams, who couldn't resist groping him just to see if it was real! She assured the audience it was!

The Centaur MC has graduated the MAL weekend into a high raking "must" for leather aficionados.This year's edition was especially enhanced by disco diva Jennifer Holliday, who was the epitome of a class act, rendering sizzling numbers from upbeat to poignant ballads. She had the audience in her grip throughout her dazzling performance.

The results

When all this was finished, and the former MAL winners were presented, outgoing MAL 2001 Mike Marino took the stage attired in an authentic New York Fire Department outfit (his brother is a New York firefighter) in a tribute to the firefighters and rescue workers of his native New York City. His speech was not about himself, but about all those who had faith in his ability to do a good job with the title, and others that had mentored him and helped him be extremely proud of his title year.

Tallymaster Jim Raymond, assisted by Bryan Mullikan, signaled that the scores were totaled and the results were brought to the stage. Mr. Nowicki announced the second runner-up, Jack (Body by God) Miller of Kansas City, Missouri. The first runner-up was Jim Shear (NE Pennsylvania Mr. Leather), and from the DC Metro Area, Mr. Double L Leather and

next page ▶

EVENTURES IN LEATHER

Thursday, January 24

Mr. February 2003 on the Bare Chest Calendar will be chosen tonight at the Powerhouse at 2130. Judging this week: Chris Ross, Remi Colette and Thom Dombkowski of Chicago.

Weekend, January 25-27

Mr. Faultline Leather 2002 will be chosen on Saturday night at the Faultline in Los Angeles.

In Portland, Oregon, Mr. Oregon State Leather Rob Hathaway presents a "Bear to Bare" party at the PDX Eagle, with a hairy chest and hairy butt contest.

In Cleveland, that hunky Dennis McMahon has more than 40 of his IML 2001 classmates joining him for his Cleveland Leather Annual Weekend (CLAW) at the ToolShed/Crossover Bar.

In Dallas, it's the Mr. Texas Leather Contest at the Dallas Eagle when Dan Azavedo steps aside for a successor.

In San Francisco, it's the SF Premiere of "Out of the Darkness," an intelligent handling of an education effort for law enforcement and other professionals. It's a long-needed educational film featuring Joseph Bean, Jill Carter, Tony DeBlase, Vi Johnson and others. At the Brava Theatre (2781-24th St @ York) at 1900 on Saturday, January 26.

Defenders of SF celebrate their 8th anniversary also on Sat. at the Loading Dock from 1900-2200. Admission by invitation in hand or club overlay. Congratulations and best wishes for continued success.

Ms. World Annie Romano-Blas holds forth at Daddy's from 1600-1900 on Saturday with a benefit for the Lupus Foundation. It's a beer/soda bust with lots of networking.

Tuesday, January 29

If you're in Chicago, be sure to go to the Cell Block where they'll be holding Crocodile Wrestling beginning at 2100. Manager David Boyer promises it will be a hoot.

Thursday, January 31

A meeting for all those interested in volunteering for Leather Levi Weekend, the blockbuster last year at Saratoga Springs. Meet at Club Rendez-Vous (1312 Polk St.) at 1930. Will it be a repeat in 2002? Attend and give your input and volunteerism on the line.

POLKSTRASSE

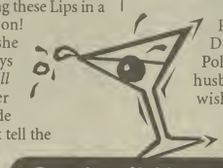
Don't be a fuddy duddy

Get out and live it up this weekend!

by Sweet Lips

As Elmer Fudd would say: "It's Dwag Queen Season" again! Bugs and Daffy can relax because hunting season begins for Emperor and Empress as candidates vie for the 2002 title with parties galore. The rush began last Monday at Marlena's as the Imperial Review Board approved those who seek the San Francisco crown. One of the candidates, the "udderly" wonderful Collette Le Grand, asks: "Are you a member of the herd?" She will be having an absolutely bovine afternoon cud-chewing fête at the Club Rendez-"Moo" from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. on Saturday, January 26.

Another candidate for Empress, Barbie LaChoy, will be tanning under the sun lamps at the Club R-V for her Malibu Barbie Beach Party at 4 p.m. on Sunday, January 27, with a special appearance by the bathing beauty Malibu Boys. Emperor XXVIII A.N. John Carrillo and Ms. Golden State Gay Rodeo Deana Dawn will be hosting an Open Show at 5 p.m. A beach buffet will be served in the sand, and swimsuits will be the wear of the day — but alas, you won't be seeing these Lips in a bikini any day soon! Even though she should not, Gladys Bumps *will* squeeze into her one-piece poolside number, but don't tell the poor thing it's really a cabana tent!



Cocktail Hour

The conspiring Cockatelia and her assaulting Til Friday drag show will be having their 1st Anniversary Show, *The Best Of,* at Club Rendez-Vous on Friday, January 26 starting at 10:30 p.m. The cast is the best in the city, and this show the only place to be scene that night. The Imperial Gala is going on just blocks away, and once that show lets out, they'll all converge on the Club for Tilly's special Midnight "Gala" show. Load up yer gun, Elmer!

Happy Groundhog birthday to our Alabama buddy Dick Cook, who used to ply his trade on Polk St. for years. Retired now in the Deep South with old Polk St. bartender and husband Dolly Dale, we wish them both all the best. Happy b-day too to Polk St.-ers Cat and Fox, the latter being Ram-Fan John and the former a wonderful gal.

In closing, let me just remind everyone Polk Street is a diverse community. Case in point: Kimo's now caters to an alternative crowd, with live bands seven nights a week rockin' the upstairs bar. Just ask veteran Harlow, who's always ready with some friendly advice. Call their hotline at 885-4554 to find out who's playing. ▼

Mister Marcus

◀ *previous page*

president of C.O.M.M.A.N.D, Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2002 is David Baldwin. He will compete for the International Mr. Leather 2002 title in Chicago in May.

There was also a MAL Boot Black competition, but at my deadline, I was unable to verify the correct spellings of the contestants and winner. I'll have the details for you at a later date.

Item of note: After his extraordinary performance onstatge in the opening number, Wayne Nesbitt will be auditioning for the Rockettes at Radio City Music Hall next week!

Summing it all up, I am sure most people who attended will spread the word that MAL 2002 weekend was a huge success. By 6 p.m. on Saturday, the host hotel (Washington Plaza) for MAL 2003 was sold out. If that's not a big enough clue to the popularity of the event, you show me one that is!

See you there next year? ▼

Mister Marcus

Mr. Mid-Atlantic Leather 2002 David Baldwin is toasted with champagne after his victory over 11 other men in Washington, D.C. last Sunday, Jan. 20. He is also Mr. Double L Leather and President of C.O.M.M.A.N.D, and advances to IML next May.

FILM

Meet (and harass) the press

Melissa Moseley

File this one in the strange and unexpected phenomenon category: Old gigolo Richard Gere plays a tormented *Washington Post* journalist in *The Mothman Prophecies,* opening this weekend. Here Gere is as ink-stained wretch John Klein, receiving a strange and unwelcome phone call from someone or something named Ingrid Cold. Scary! Mark Pellington's thriller also stars Laura Linney, Debra Messing and Will Patton, and is supposedly based on true events that transpired in Point Pleasant, Virginia. Press notes say the movie is rated PG-13 for "terror, some sexuality and language." Hey, that's life for an old newspaper hand. ▼

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PARTING GLANCES

Muchacho Muy Guapo-Alfredo
You left without getting my phone number on Sunday, 12/23. Will I see you again-place, same day? Papi Pedro wants you! ☎ 71392

Muni Chance Encounter
Three weeks ago you GWM (shopping perhaps) got on train at Powell. I got off at Civic Center. Our eyes met and I waved. Where are you? Me: GBM coming from work. I want you! ☎ 71402

•Steve• Steve•Steve•
Sunday 12/23 Blow Buddies. We played three times! Had a special connection. I told you "you're cute". You said I "could be the poster boy for cock sucking". Dave ☎ 71403

Berlin & Beyond Saturday Jan 12
You: Sexy blond guy wearing black leather jacket and red handkerchief around the neck. Me: cute Black guy you smiled and wrinkled at. Let's get together. ☎ 71447

New Years Eve @ Universe
Shaw- we met briefly outside while I was waiting for a cab. You were arriving with friends. Would like to talk with you further. Greg ☎ 71413

Thur 1-10-02 18th & Castro
I was waiting for bus- You cruised me twice- as bus came up you asked me if I had the time. I got on the bus- should have stayed and talked. Let's try again! ☎ 71448

Martin New Years Eve Phonefind
Thank you for resending my phone- Martin from Alameda. Please call Peter P. to arrange return. Will pick up or ship or meet. Thanks again Peter. ☎ 71414

Rich @ Daddy's New Years
You: Just arrived from Twin Peaks party. Me: wished you a Happy New Year- a pit stop at closing, returned and you were gone. Want to continue conversation? ☎ 71415

Have We Met?
Seeking someone whose path has already crossed with yours? No? then take it, elsewhere, bud. You know who you are. Mr. Bondage. Get back to your appropriate column. ☎ 71416

"Arnold Where Are You?"
Arnold from Pacifica? Menlo Park. We met at bus stop 18th and Castro at 2pm on 12/27. I got the wrong email address. Would love to connect. David ☎ 71404

•Taxi•
You picked me and a friend up & gave us quite a ride! We gave you our number & really want to ride again! Call us & let's go again! ☎ 71417

SEEKING ADVENTURE

ISO S.Bay/S.V. Area Bear/Daddy
Type, Me: 6'1", 220lbs, grey/brn. Looking for daytime playmate. M-F am's in Sunnyvale/ S. Bay Area. I'm 40yrs, 8", very clean, ub-2 or forget it! ☎ 71399

Pretty Eyes
Smooth fun butt seeks secure tall Black-gent-spank+dress up. ☎ 71396

Top Seeks Bottom Fuck Buddy
Masculine, GWM, 35, 6'2", 260lbs, black/blue, negative, work out, beefy build, 7"x5" cock, seeks aggressive bottom for playfully rough & intense sexual intimacy on an on going basis. ☎ 71397

•New Year Massage•
Start 2002 off with an erotically stimulating full body massage free for lean masculine guys 19-45 by lean masculine WM 43. ☎ 71398

Tops R Us!
Big-dick total top likes to "get-off" with other top men. Either, kickin back strokin, or working over an eager bottom. Age, race, endowment not important. Masculine, in-shape men only. ☎ 71400

Where's My Hagrid?
Heart of gold, big as a house, hairy, an oral bottom. I'm no Harry Potter, but by the way, I'm big in the right place. ☎ 71460

Beginner Cocksucker
Seeking one large uncircumsized a/w smooth to lite hairy clean safe cock to practice my cocksucking fantasies on. Your cock fucking my mouth is so hot! ☎ 71408

Looking For A Few Good Men
Hung top long lasting imaginative verbal demanding awesome 5'8", 170#, 7.5c. 40's HIV+ wants dedicated bottom. You: HIV+ service oriented willing to learn masculine muscular or in shape A+. ☎ 71433

Skinny Horny Guys
Enjoy servicing skinny or slim guys only who kick back and then show me their hole for rimming and ass eating. ☎ 71409

Top 9"cut Cock Wants Hot Ass
To fuck- Me 57yrs old Cauc. 6'0", 175lbs drk brn hair brn eyes, glasses, hairy chest-stomach. You Cauc. or Hispanic under 40 smooth bodied and loves to get fucked. ☎ 71410

Senior Seeking Service
Twist dad's nipples suck his cock. It's 7"uncut. What's your like? Thick & cut, let me at it! ☎ 71411

Skintight
GWM, 5'11", 170, fit, fairhaired, forties seeks lean GAMs to fun, workout, bike or play in lycra/spandex gear. ☎ 71428

Horny Asian 4 UR Hot Pleasure
Submissive but aggressive hot horny Asian ready to give you hot satisfying pleasures til you cum all the way. Open to all males, tall White guys A+. ☎ 71429

Smooth Slender Top Wanted!!
46y.o., 6'1", 200lb. bi-W/M seeks a very smooth, slender, effeminina? Well hung gay male for regular get togethers. You are the top, I am the bottom. ☎ 71430

•Party Boys 4 Sex•
Me: 26 GWM 6'2", 225lbs. 34w, 50c, 19a brn, blu, solid & attractive. You: smooth Asian, Latin, Black, slim to gym build enjoy sex & partying. ☎ 71431

Palo Alto GAM 45 5'11" 190
Likes giving guys w/average size boners blowjob w/no reciprocation. Can drive to you! ☎ 71432

Nude Male Photography
Photographer in East Bay looking for gay male models in good physical shape for nude, erotic, artistic photos. Come for the fun!! ☎ 71434

East Bay Cock Sucker Seeking
A local tool to service. Any age/race. I'm HIV-neg. White, 6'155, 40's. Porn tapes while servicing. Camcord close up? W/S? ☎ 71435

Hung Guys Wanted! I Am Looking
For guys who are hung 9- inches or more to party for fun, or to have the greatest of times. ☎ 71436

Italian Guys
I am seeking Italian guys who are looking for an honest relationship with a good looking guy. Also for fun times. ☎ 71437

I Have Two Hungry Holes 4 You
My expertise: giving oral pleasures non stop until you GWM feel yourself exploding. Are you lean or stocky between 20-45? Am hot Asian with tight ass for you. ☎ 71438

Oral Expert I Am Seeking
Guys who are well hung to service for a long session. We can watch videos and party if you want. Call Me! ☎ 71439

Blk Top Sks Bttm To Plow
38, masculine total top, 6'1", 225lbs stocky build sks total submissive bottom boy, must be clean shaven smooth all over. Let me ride that ass! ☎ 71440

Oral Blk Bottom Seeks Blk Top
You: BM, masculine, verbal, medium build. Kick back for discreet bj. Me: chocolate lover, 40's great mouth. S.F. ☎ 71441

Need To Jack -Off?
If you want to kick back and jack-off, then call me. We can also watch videos etc. If you are hung a plus "+". ☎ 71442

Nasty Not Sugar Daddy Seeks UC
Dominate White daddy 50 stocky HIV+ seeks younger versatile uncut boy for regular sexual encounters. Inexperience, available, willingness, jockstraps. ☎ 71458

24 Hour Fitness Buddy Wanted
Middle age male needs gym attendance friend. You be male or female. Let's talk and do exercise. ☎ 71407

Weekday Morning Fantasy
Walk into my place. Find me naked on all 4's you be 40+ dominant top. Weight & looks not as important as being into my fantasy. I'm 35 attractive HIV+ & want to show it off. No drugs. ☎ 71459

Short + Thin + Smooth = Hot
Your around 35, very oral and perhaps versatile. Your looking for fun from a man who wants to please you. I am masculine, big build, hairy, 6', 210 and a young 58. ☎ 71461

Handsome Sincere
Easygoing, SWM, 42/6'/180, br/br, fit, discreet, hairy, clean, HIV-Neg; seeks partner, WM, HIV-neg for romance, massage, jack-off, any anything safe; my place SF, no reciprocation necessary. It's time. ☎ 71465

Looking For Asian Guy
You short, slim, age unimportant. Me-- attractive, sensuous, Asian guy seeking you for fun, warm cuddles & more. ☎ 71466

Naked On Your Knees
Safe dominant role player needs a submissive cocksucker to follow orders. Lean straight looking WM 43 seeks a masculine trim guy 19 to 44 with a tight butt. ☎ 71467

SEEKING RELATIONSHIP

•WGM 20, 6" Blonde Blu Eyes•
Nice guy looking to meet men between 18-30 for poss. relationship. I am a WM 20yrs old, 160lbs, 6'tall, blond hair, blue eyes, and very cute! ☎ 71449

~Anything Goes~
Mild or wild, let's do it! Hung thick (nice mouthful), hairy, 6', 200#, gray trim beard, HIV-. Into music, arts theater, photography. You 40+, neg, GWAH. Hot daddy answers all replies. ☎ 71393

Masculine Hole For My Pleasure
Spiritual Journey: leather, affection, and sleaze. Va, w/s, humiliation, face-slapping, belt-whipping. Master's 38, 5'10", 172, br/bl, moustache, HIV-, nice shape. Ub2, look around my age. Single only. ☎ 71395

Nice Guy Looking 4 Same
I am GAM, 35, 5'6", thoughtful, easy-going, smart and caring. Would like to meet similar GAM/GWM in East Bay for dating. Please be NS/ND, HIV-. ☎ 71405

~Mature Men~
I'm attractive to affectionate senior men who enjoy passionate kissing and oral pleasure. Kink ok. I'm a WLM 46, 6', 165lbs. Non-gym, facial hair, rugged-looks a+. No gay scene, drugs, attitude. ☎ 71406

Straight- Acting- GWM- 59-155
Enjoys movies- opera, travel, outdoors-garden, pets. Evening at home. Looking for a masculine guy- mid forties- good sense of humor- nice body a plus- NS. ☎ 71418

~Geek Heat~
Terminus, arrakis, rama, pern; which one doesn't belong? Why? Attractive Black guy, 5'10", 180, 44, dark, smooth, muscular, masculine, quiet, bookish, computer programmer, versatile bottom, HIV+ seeking friendship intimacy, etc. ☎ 71419

How About A Little Bump & Grind
GBM prof. top 50 seeking GWM bottom 4B-60yrs for good hot sex on an ocassional or on going basis. Also open to some type of relationship but horny for now.Smk, drink, and aroma all good. Prefer you be somewhat stocky built, enjoy sexy underwear and nudity. No heavy beards. ☎ 71420

Milton At Cameraworks Dec 1st
We talked after last auction piece was sold, and later outside, I introduced myself and gave you my number. I'd enjoy hearing from you. ☎ 71421

Mulatto Guy. Sexy, Intelligent
Educated, good-looking. Looking for a relationship or fun and good times. Please contact me. ☎ 71422

~Seeking Connection~
GWM, 55, 5'8", brn/bl, HIV- seeks relationship with loving GM of pure heart, who has wide and varied interests, craves affection and intimacy, and enjoys had sex. ☎ 71423

•Seeking Quality•
GWM, 42, 5'9", 180, professional, seeks GM, preferrally Asian, 35-55, for dating and possible relationship. Interests include: Classical music, politics, travel, working out and reading. Looking for someone to share good times and good conversation. ☎ 71424

Partner/ Romance
GWPM(NS/ND), 43- 5'11"- 195#, HIV+, goatee, smooth, frisky. You: hairy, good-hearted bottom. Who enjoys concerts, Muir Woods, skiing, theatre, cuddling, foreign films, animals, NPR. ☎ 71425

Searching For A Unique Man
Haw/Flip 42 5'5", 145 smooth hlth poz ver/"btm". Skg mascu top hopefully for companionship, friendship, romance & great "safe" hot sex. I'm good hearted romantic, passionate, sensitive but strong responsible & relationship oriented. ☎ 71426

Mature GWM Seeks New Friend(s)
Who enjoy sharing experiences, tv/movies watching, card and board games, cuddling. Have extensive library and knowledge of films. Look forward to meeting you. ☎ 71427

Sunny Kind Of GWM Guy...
Handsome (some say), kind (everyone says) & sexy/ intense 50ish, poz man seeks fun, romance & hot versatile sex, well endowed, sandy hair, h/w prop, cultured intellectual seeks same 40-60. S 71451

Uncut, Hung-9, Hairy, Masc, Musc
GWM, 50, 5'9", 160, balding, muscular/ goatee, versatile dad. ISO masc/musc fit man, great butt, nice cock, "nipple work", verbal, light S&M, rough, tender, kiss & cuddle. Live on east coast, visiting S.F. Apr. Nude photo required, butt photo get mine. I am HIV- poz/ok! ☎ 71452

Handsome Chinese Guy
Tall educated ISO inked Asian over 50 for friendship or ltr. ☎ 71394

"FootBall-Built"
Blk, 50, 5'10", 220, chest 50", aggressive, strong, loving kissable, suckable, safe, long hair, strong legs, swollen nipples, strong buns, 10"&7 1/2"round, serious. No fats or fems. ☎ 71453

"Muscle-Men"
Hard bodies for strong love making sucking nipples aggressively strong hard fucking that ass. Don't answer my ad if you can't handle my strong love-making. ☎ 71454

"Power"
Strong, aggressive, loving, gentle, non-smoker, safe, serious, hard big rod. 50, 5'10", 220, ch. 50, large swollen nipples, love kissing, hugging, fucking, and sucking. No fats or fems. ☎ 71455

GWM Seeks Asian Bottom
Muscular. Late 40's hairy seeks GAM 20, 30 slim cum sit on it. Possible long term relationship. ☎ 71456

Handsome Animal/ Plant Lover
Tall, lean, muscular, straightacting, shaved head, goatee kind, affectionate, sensual, passionate, playful, easygoing quiet, semivegetarian, friendly upbeat loner, earthy, nature loving, dependable homebody seeks similar homeowner for l.t.r. Oakland. ☎ 71457

FETISHES

Erotic Rope Bondage
Expert bondage top, GWM, 43, 5'8", 160, good looking, athletic, HIV-, seeks masculine, in-shape bottom, 21-40, for challenging erotic bondage gags, toys, light SM. Trustworthy, discreet. Novice Ok. SF/East Bay. S 71401

Rimmers
GWM seeks guys who like to rim. Me: 55 5'8" brown hair mustache HIV+. You: GWM 30-50. Clean only. Your place in SF only. Hairy ass A+. ☎ 71412

Mature Masculine Submissive
Seek 40+ dominant into D/S BDSM. Sub is intelligent experienced. Seeks same. ☎ 71443

Chubby Bottom Pig Boy ISO Tops
GWM, 42, 5'10", 275#, total bottom, HIV- E. Bay, needs dominant sweaty (strong mansmells- pits, balls, feet, socks) men (age, race, looks, size unimportant) to use me for your pleasure. ☎ 71444

Feb 6th Drag Queen Interlude
Me: Bi-male, 53, ISO drag-queens for my birthday wish, pluses., red heads, cigar-smokers, 69, French/Greek, 18-40 only, discreet. No drugs. ☎ 71468

~Fingering~
GWM seeks guys into butt-fingering (not FF). Fun + safe. Me: 40's, avg. build, HIV-, goatee. You: GM, 30-50, HIV-Clean only. Call+describe yourself. ☎ 71469

Sixpack Of Beer Piss Dwntwn SF
40y.o. W/S top. I'm healthy, 6-1, 173#, 6", hairy chest, blond, goatee; wants W/S btm, healthy, to drain me. Aroma-head/cleaner: yes. Hard drugs: no thanks. Dentures A+. ☎ 71470

OTHERS

Husky & Stocky Club
Bi weekly social/play gatherings for husky/stocky masculine guys. Saturdays, San Rafael. All inquires responded to. ☎ 71445

Tony H., Where Are You?
Hoping you'll see this and call Mark P. Asap. It's been a long time. ☎ 71446

•Exploring Frontiers In Group Sex•
Looking for in-shape, creative, open-hearted men. Looking to explore the ~Hot Frontier~of raw male pleasure; in groups. Affectionate men not afraid of intimacy in groups, are desired. ☎ 71471

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GWM 5'8", 142# w/well-equipped home gym (weights, bench, punching bag, gloves, mats) ISO workout/sparring buddy under 170# into lifting, wrestling, boxing, NHB submissive, rough sweaty man2man action. ☎ 71472

Husky Men's Social/Play Club
Bi-weekly (Saturdays) social/play (clothing optional) gatherings in San Rafael for husky/ stocky/bulky men. Will respond to all inquires. ☎ 71473

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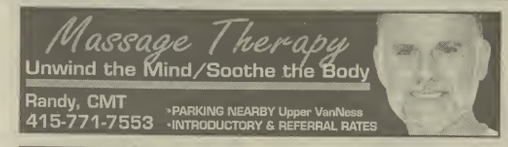

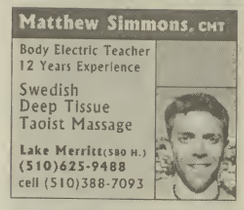

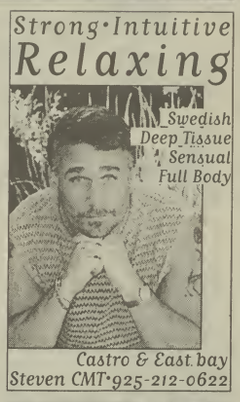

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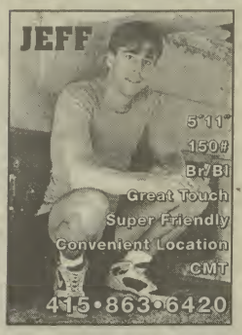

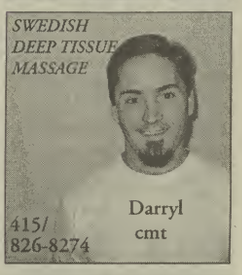

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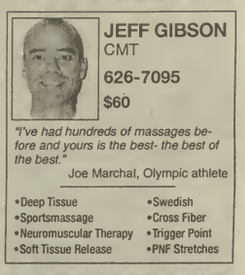

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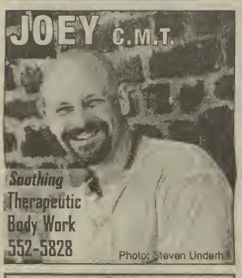
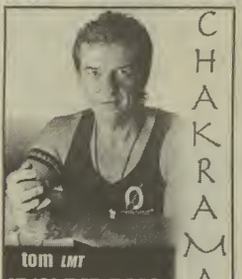
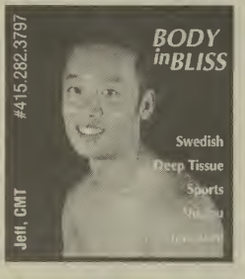
MASSAGE







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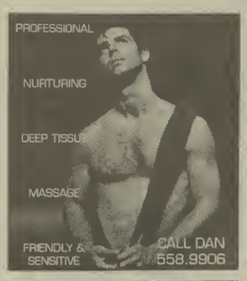

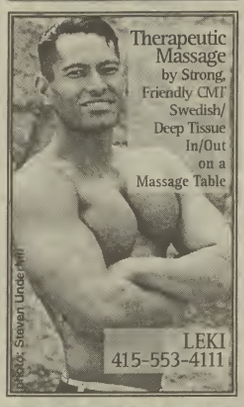

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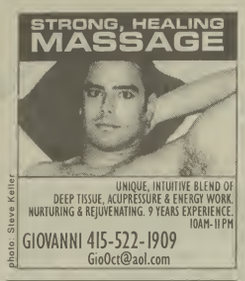

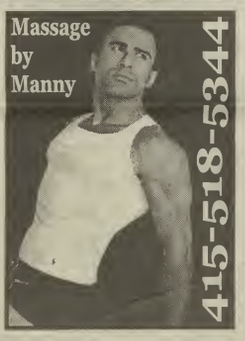

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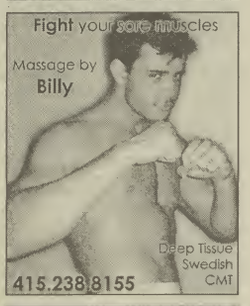

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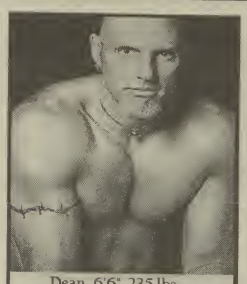
MASSAGE



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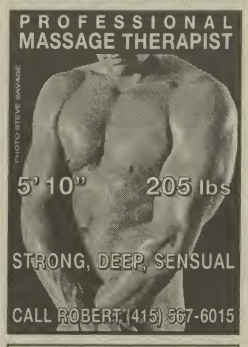

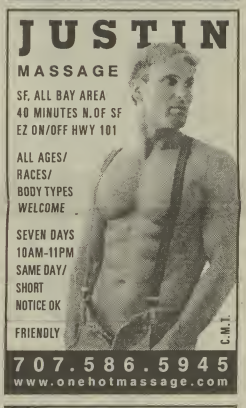

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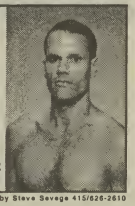

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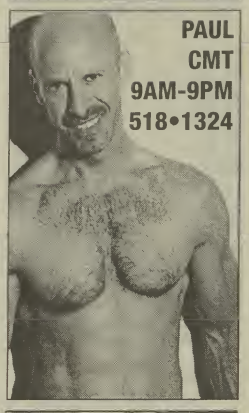

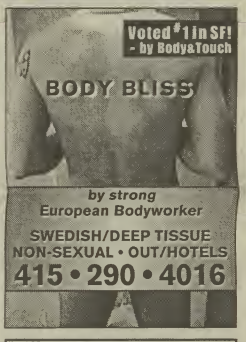

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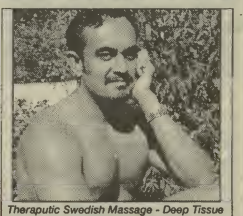

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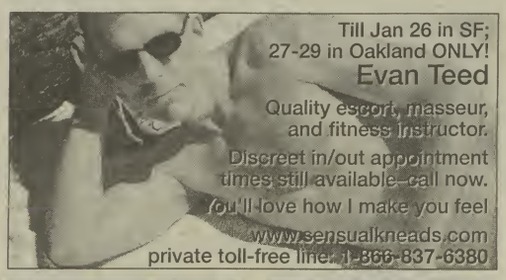
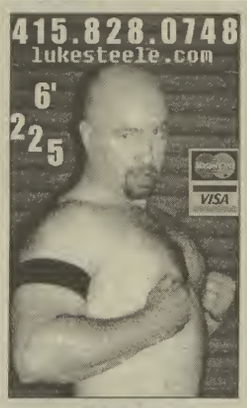
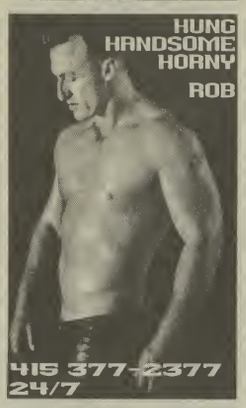
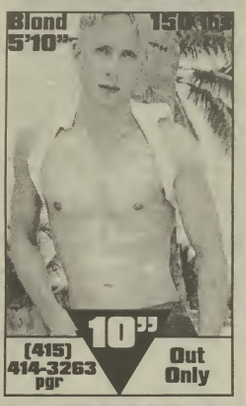
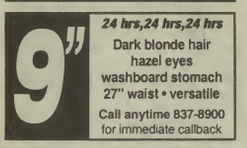
MODEL/ESCORTS











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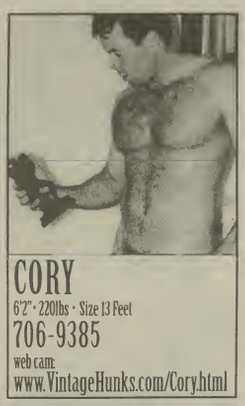

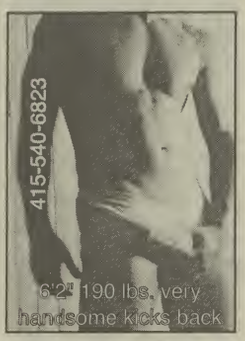

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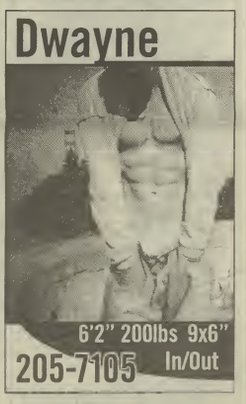

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Good lookin'+discreet! 20y/o, 6'3", 190#, Wht, blu/blnd. Out calls only, 24/7 650 873 1461 Jeremy E04

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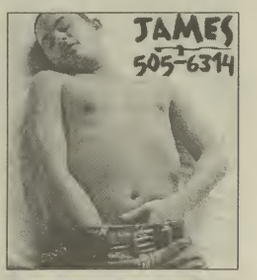
8yrs w/Click/ NY model agency. Appeared in numerous T.V. commls. Incl: Gillette Sensor, Coors; Citibank Clubmed. mag. Work Inc: "Mens Fitness", "Mens Health", 6'3", 200lbs. blond, smooth, v.athl. 36yrs v. hung (9.5x7 thick) prefer top, open, fun 24hrs. 415-810-0560 E04

STR8 MALE DOMINATION
SM CBT no sex Mike 415-995-7550 E06



20 YO BLOND TWINKIE
8" cut Bl/Blu 5'11" 155lbs vers
Pics: www.RyanKid.com
$160 outcalls 415-235-4156 E04

6'225# very handsome 34/yo stud w/
THICK MUSCLES
Great thighs/calves & big manly muscle butt. Awesome hairy chest 19"arms; also avail. foot fetish
VISA/MC UNIFORM
Fantasy, tickling, etc. 415 828 0748 E13

Handsome 25y/o w/packed shorts
SOCCER JOCK
Lean, athletic body - top
www.eromenos.com
Kevin pg#605-5328 in/out E08

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Asian-Equation. I'll be your baby or any fantasie q.t.pie $40-725 5805 E04

Domint*oral/top*kicks/back for service
10"X6*UNCUT
very verbal*role play*w/s*fat tool goodlooking*in or out*847-3585 *24hrs* E04

LEATHER TOP!
Light to heavy sensual S/M handsome experienced w/dungeon
TOM 415-487-1296 E04

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Blnd blue & Gorgeous!!!
I'm str8/no sex 415-995-7550 E04

BOY TOYS WANTED
UB young + in good shape! Now hiring, established Agency lookin'4 new talent. Call 24/7 650•873•1461 E04

14 EEE
FOOT FETISH
etc.
219 6000 E07

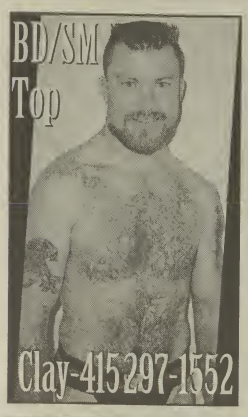
MARKO: FREAK-SIZED!
Erotic services with an exotic twist! Good-looking, friendly, and safe. Please visit www.XtremeCock.com/marko for photos and contact information. E04

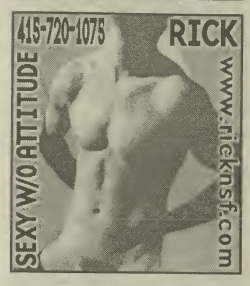
LUCKY 21!
Get lucky with me! 21, 6'4", 145#, Wht, blnd/blu+vers! Out calls only! (650) 873-1461 - Eric 24/7 E04

9x5 Package Delivered
BIKE MESSENGER
28 yo Bi Br/ Br 6' Lean Body
415-987-0985 $80 In/Out. Jesse E05

PERSONALS

MODEL/ESCORTS





9X6 24-HOURS
(415) 775-4771 24-hours E04

Lean muscular hung leathertop 48 sling. Get hosed down! Lick boots rim seat FF on web Derek 207-0381 E06

33 5'8" 150# furry toned tattooed
FIST MASTER
Jeff 415-215-8396 Out only
http://come.to/jeffsfist E05

TOTAL TOP, HUNG 8.5X6,
Dom/musclr, 5'10",170#,$150. 254-3457 E05

GQ MODEL
Very hot 28 yr old 5'9", 165#
slim muscular 8x6 cut
hot great butt. Older guys only
Dave 415 224 4971
davetylercalifornia@hotmail.com E04

SOUTH AMERICAN
21y/o Great body 5'8", 140lbs in/out
"8" (415) 252•0430 New in town. E04

CUM STARVED MUSCLE PUNK!
Nick 709-1467
Submissive bottom great service E05

5'10", 175#, hung and uncut
23YO BRAZILIAN
I'm Ricardo, a friendly sexy escort with no attitude and very passionate. Masculine and handsome, lean muscular body. Intelligent and discreet.
Visit my web site for pictures and more! www.latino4men.com
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*Handsome*Masculine*Hung*Dude*
KICKS BACK FOR YOU
5'11"*175*br/gr*mid 30's*8"cut
Days ok-Soma-$75/In Randy 309-1032 E04

HORNY FRIENDLY DUDE
26, 5'6", 135#, lean, solid
great tool. Hot and juicy.
Patrick 415-846-2824 SF in/out E05

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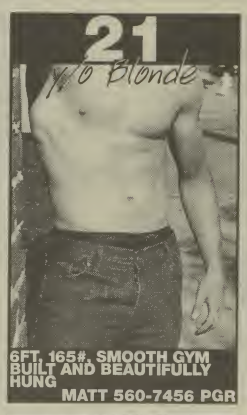
26, 5'11", 174lbs, 7"uncut, playful top, suave, smooth 415-251-0261 E05

SIZE 12 FEET
21 YO WM 6'2" CUTE
WWW. SFFOOTPLAY.COM
In or out $100 415-739-9217 pgr E04

******24HOURS******
~~~~~415-303-0252~~~~~ E04

!BLACK ADONIS!
24 Black & Native American cutie!
Hot top, model looks & no attitude
gorgeous tool 9"thick! cut! hard!
Jason 415 414 2984 Serious only E04

YOUNG TOP 8 1/2 THK
28 OUT ONLY 415-540-2269 E04



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Satisfied by sweet and cute guy
35yrs. 5'10", 160# 8 inches, cut.
Call Andy 246-5625 E04

Frat Boy Hunk
Solid Muscular Pecs, Abs & Legs
Deep throat and young jock ass.
5'9", 155#, 30"w, 8"246-4460 E04

MULATTO GUY "9"
(415) 775-4771 24-hrs E04

MARINE BOY
24y, 5'11", 169#, smooth, versatile
brn, hazel, friendly, sexy, fun
Jason 415-336-2940 out/ $130hr E04

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Top, 6-175#, vgl 30yrs, call Steve
at (415) 595-3064 E04

Sensual bodyrub by handsome
hung dad age 48 $60 outcalls
only Ken 345-1611 E04

PUPPY LOVE
Vers. 23y/o, 5'8", 140#, Wht, brwn/
brwn 4 a good time! 24/7 Chris
(650) 873-1461 Out calls only! E04

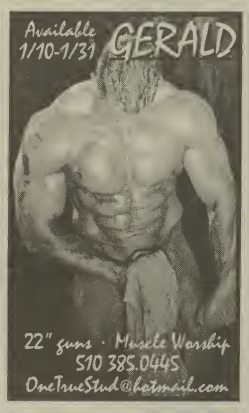
Smooth bottom Chris 370-4341 E04

Gentle sexy short muscular 39yo
washboard mild to wild 208-0259 E05

23 y/o, mltry. buzz, hot body
LATINO TOP BOY
5'8", 140#, 9"x6" hard tool.
Friendly-aggressive; out only
Marco * 24hrs * (415) 305-2474 E04

BORN TO SERVE MEN
HOT, HUNGRY, HORNY BOTTOM
Alek, 415 242-4230, in/out. E07

TALL•DARK•BI• STUD
6'9"•215lbs•10"x6"•Blk/Wht/Jap
mix. Track star build, look like Will
Smith. Chris•cell 415•699•7053 E04



SAN JOSE STUD
WWW.SJBOY.COM
27, 5'11", 165#, blond hair
Pager/voice: 888-325-3005 E04

33yo 5'5", 130# 8.5x6"
So. Italian Top - Out only
Angelo 415-414-4664 E05

Massage n play butt n ball shave
handsome hung David 305-5268 E04

SKILL
SF- out only (707) 758-8959
www.wtkf.org/woof/woof.htm E05

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Hot sexy xmltry muscle boy
25yo 5'6", 140lbs gr8 ass, chest
6.5"c Pager. 415-258-7086 Josh E04

HOT CUBAN TOP
9x6uncut beauty. Handsome 44yo
6'4", 170# very smooth gymbody.
In 90 out 130minimum Alex 643 7770 E09

X TALL BLK TOP STUD
6'6" 230lbs smooth musc build
*10"X7" CUT TOP TOOL
very goodlkg, very sexy/horny
Fri, Sat, Sun, only. S.F. Only
Call 505•3829 24hrs out only
ROB $200 LETS DO IT!
Couples, older gentlemen welcome E04

TOP TLC
Very handsome, with endowed, great
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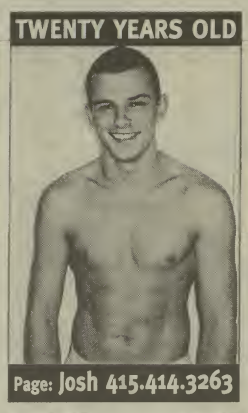
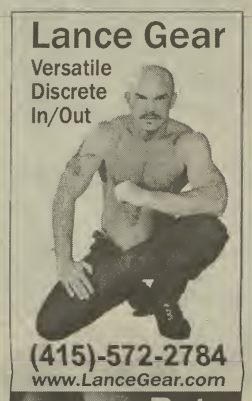
affectionate & friendly. Will make you
happy 207 6025 E04

S/M SENSUALITY
–long, & slow– my specialty.
6'2", 185, strong, gymtoned
master into all aspects &
degrees of leatherplay.
S/M, B&D, FF, WS, raunch.
Lord 431-0959





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Are you a man with a unique imagination?
Special cravings? Enjoy erotic
adventure tailored to your special kink;
Mild to edge. Private playroom.
Call LEATHERMASTER
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XTRA HUNG DAD
All scenes-kink- 24hrs 255-8093,
verbal, role playing. E04

Couples ok
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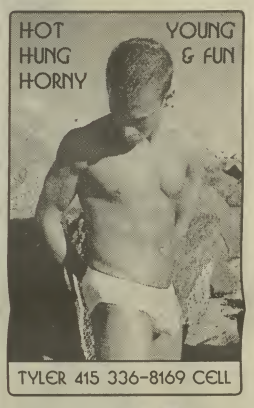
Masculine muscular horny & hung
BLUECOLLAR
*24hrs 540-2396 Jack 24hrs. E04

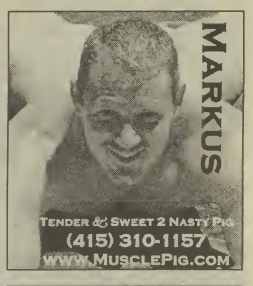
Masculine guy w/buzzcut & goatee
well hung, big balls, smooth tall
SHVD HEAD STUD
Fun-loving, easygoing buddy for
hard times and oral needs.
Clint* 540-5311* In/out-24hrs. E04

*24h partyboy/vers/hardcore fun
8"+thick/sexy+horny-out-207 0508 E04

5'8",149lb, smooth $100in/out
20YO & VERSATILE!
415-430-1269x1623 E04

FRENCH MARINE
Bodybuilder,
220lbs,6'1",52ch,21"A,
26 years.
New in town from
Paris, France
(415) 871-9037





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Escorts... quality assured
All types $200 415•765•6566 E05

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Hot Cub! Private Hr/20 • 208-0078 E12

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for lesbian, gay,bisexual,transgender and HIV+ smokers. Jan 29th-Mar 5, 2002. Tuesday evenings. Once a week for six weeks. Call to register 415-565-7672 Ext 351 or visit: www.lastdrag.org E04

Need a blow? 552-1741 any time! E04

MARK FROM THE CASTRO
Me: Bill from Chicago. You: In DC for New Years; we met at the Lizard Lounge on Sunday night, 12/30. You used to live there and we hit it off--I think! Would love to hear from you! Redtiechicago@aol.com E04

MR. SF LEATHER 2002
The contest is on Friday, March 8th. Are you leathery and dedicated enough to run for the title and represent us at IML? Give it a go! E11

HOT WM BOOT BOTTOM
ISO hot WM boot top for boot service and more. 408-295-1634 E08

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Massage- 75 min $60, 2 hrs $100 Spawn (415) 255-1164 E05

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PEOPLE

PERSONALS

PEOPLE

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DEADLINE

NOON on **MONDAY.** Payment *must* accompany ad. No ads taken over the telephone. If you have a question, call 415.861.5019. Display advertising rates available upon request.

RATES

First line, Regular	4.50
All subsequent lines	3.00
CAPS	double price
BOLD	double price
X-BOLD	triple price

Indicate Type Style Here ▼ | X-BOLD Stops Here ▼ | BOLD Stops Here ▼ | CAPS Stop Here ▼ | Regular Stops Here ▼

PAYMENT
- ☐ Cash
- ☐ Personal Check
- ☐ Money Order
- ☐ Visa
- ☐ MasterCard
- ☐ American Express

Minimum $10 charge.

CREDIT CARD PAYMENT
Card Number
Expiration Date
Signature
Name

CONTACT INFORMATION
Name | Telephone
Address
City | State | Zip
Number of Issues | Classification | Amount Enclosed

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Nausea so bad you want to die
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No appetite for weeks.
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Stuck in the hospital
Yellow skin. Yellow eyes.
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And years later...
some liver damage,
maybe even death.

You can prevent all this—so why don't you?

The fact is, hepatitis *is* a very big deal. And men who have sex with men are at greater risk for hepatitis A and B. That's why the Gay and Lesbian Medical Association (GLMA), as well as the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), recommends you get vaccinated to prevent these 2 serious diseases.

PROTECT YOURSELF! See your doctor about vaccination today. For referral to a gay-friendly physician near you, call GLMA at 1-877-LGBTDOC or visit our Web site at www.glma.org/hepatitis

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www.dph.sf.ca.us

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www.glma.org

This program is supported by a grant from GlaxoSmithKline.

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